

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS.—

On MONDAY, the 10th inst., being the Ninety-second Anniversary of the Foundation of the Royal Academy of Arts, a General Assembly of the Academicians, the following SILVER MEDALS were AWARDED:—

- Mr. THOMAS HENRY WATSON, for the best Architectural Drawing;
To Mr. JAMES TURPIN HART, for the best Drawing from the Antique;
Mr. CHARLES JOHN T. SMITH, for the best Model from the Antique;
To Mr. THOMAS HENRY WATSON, for the best Perspective Drawing;
To Mr. THOMAS HENRY WATSON, for a Specimen of Sciography.

JOHN PRESCOTT KNIGHT, R.A., Secretary.

SCHOOL for MECHANICAL, CHEMICAL, and SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION, at the COLLEGE, CHESTER.

In addition to English and Mathematics, all the Pupils are taught Drawing suitable for the Architect or Engineer, and in the Laboratory the Principles as well as the Practice of Chemistry. The use of Tools, the Construction of Machinery and the Principles of Mechanism, may be studied in the various Workshops of the Schools.

French and German are taught to all who desire it without any extra charge. Chemical Analyses undertaken; Steam-engines and Machinery examined and reported upon; and Mechanism designed for special purposes.

For further particulars apply to the Rev. A. Riggs, Chester.

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CHARLES EDWARD MUDIE, 51, New Oxford-street.

FEMALE SCHOOL OF ART, in connexion

with the Science and Art Department, 43, Queen-square, W.C. (removed from 27, Gower-street). Dr. D. PEARCE, F.R.S., has commenced the Course of Lectures on FRIDAYS at 10 a.m. Ladies admitted to this Course without entering the other Classes of the School. Fee for the Session, 10s.

WOOD ENGRAVING.—A class is opened for the Study of Wood Engraving, three days a week. Classes also meet daily for the Study of French and Drawing, Geometry, Perspective, Drawing, and Painting from the Antique, Flowers, Landscapes, &c.

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GARDENS, MAIDA HILL, W.—Director, Signor and Signora G. CAMPANELLA, with the usual Professors.—Signor G. CampANELLA has returned from Italy, and has resumed his lessons in Schools and Families.

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The following Lectures and Meetings will take place in the Theatre of the South Kensington Museum on WEDNESDAYS:—Jan. 6, 'A Plea for Polyphony,' by William White, Esq.—Jan. 20, 'On the Art of Engraving (illustrating the several styles) and Printing Plates,' by S. C. Hall, Esq. F.S.A.—Feb. 6, 'The Four Sisters; or, Some Notes on the Relationship of the Fine Arts,' by John Bell, Esq.—Feb. 20, 'On the Architecture of the Middle Ages,' by Thomas Lott, Esq. F.S.A.—March 6, 'Distribution of Prizes to Artist-Workmen and Conversations,' by E. A. Freeman, Esq. M.A.—March 20, 'An Architectural Journey in Aquitaine,' by E. A. Freeman, Esq. M.A.

Cards will be sent to Subscribers.

GEO. GILBERT SCOTT, Treasurer.

JOSEPH CLARKE, Hon. Sec. 15, Stratford-place, W., where Letters should be sent.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, EXETER

HALL—Conductor, M. COSTA—On FRIDAY NEXT, December 21, Handel's 'MESSIAH,' Principal Vocalists: Miss Parera, Madame Sainton-Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Weiss—Tickets, 3s., 5s., and 10s. 6d. each, at the Society's Office, No. 6, in Exeter Hall.

PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY of LONDON.

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION WILL OPEN EARLY in JANUARY. Pictures intended for Exhibition should be sent to the Gallery, 5, Pall Mall East, on the 27th inst.

MUDIE'S SELECT LIBRARY.—The

SUBSCRIBERS TO MUDIE'S SELECT LIBRARY are respectfully invited TO VIEW THE NEW HALL, which will BE OPEN for their inspection on TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, and THURSDAY NEXT, from 10 to 6 (entrance in Museum-street). New Oxford-street, December 15, 1860.

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THE MURDER at FRIMLEY PARSON-

AGE.—In connexion with this Tragical Event, the attention of CLERGYMEN and others, residing in isolated Country Residences, is particularly directed to an ADVERTISEMENT on the Second Page of the ATHENÆUM for SATURDAY LAST (December 8).

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THE GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY COM-

PANY OF CANADA.

NOTICE is HEREBY GIVEN, that a MEETING of the SHARE and BOND-HOLDERS of the COMPANY WILL BE HELD at the LONDON TAVERN, Whitechapel-street, on WEDNESDAY, the 2nd of January next, at one o'clock precisely.

By Order of the Directors.

JOHN H. GRANT, Secretary.

Grand Trunk Railway Office, 21, Old Broad-street, E.C.

December 15, 1860.

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In the first place (to begin with what the general reader will consider *his* complaint), this bold and brilliant story is too long. Five years of time consume eleven hundred of Dr. Motley's close and crowded pages. In other words, this history of the tiny Republic of the Netherlands for no more than five years is nearly as long as Hallam's History of England for three centuries,—about a third the length of Gibbon's 'Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire,' and somewhat longer than Carl von Rotteck's 'History of the World,' from Adam to the reign of Victoria. We admit quite freely that the only limit which a writer is bound by is the limit of interest. We admit also that the value of a good work is not to be measured, like a roll of ribbon, by its length. The Odyssey is not dull, though it is unquestionably long. Tupper's Sonnets are not bright, though they are brief. Yet there is need of some proportion between substance and illustration. The adventures of Ulysses would be dreary reading if the Homeric wine had been watered down into a million verses. What a Tupperian epic would be, it is fearful to think. The canvas should not be too vast for the picture.

In the second place (and here we come upon a critic's objection, though the reader for amusement will be apt to feel it too), the plan on which Dr. Motley's story moves is scarcely one in harmony with the higher laws of literary art. It knows no unity of time or place. The tale ebbs and flows over the same ground. Dr. Motley goes backward and forward, now in one State, now in another; now in one year,

now in another; and this not incidentally and episodically, but from the nature of his plan, and from the outset to the end of his book. Hence, the separate parts of his story seem to lack connexion and continuity. Even when it is most attractive and original, a chapter may be felt as a nuisance, out of place, and may be skipped from its want of sequence. We know that historical works must thrive under very different auspices from those under which we rear an 'Æneid' or a 'Paradise Lost.' The poet has a more absolute command of his artificial unities of subject, time and space; and these the most humble versifier may either boldly set aside with Shakspeare, or fall upon his knees and worship with Racine. The more natural unities of the prose writer will often, when his subject is great and complex, elude the grasp and defy the magic power of any save the very highest masters of the historical craft. A thing easy to Tacitus may be impossible to Dr. Henry or Prof. Craik. Yet the true artist should not give way. Doubtless, it requires more science, more thought, more dramatic force and fire to fuse the whole mass of narrative materials into one broad and radiant stream, to make that stream live and move, than to compose separate paragraphs and episodes of a great tale. But the best histories have no breaks and chasms. The Peloponnesian War is as perfect as the Iliad. Sallust exhibits as much art in the management of his prose as Ovid in the elaboration of his verse. Clarendon would have told the story of the Revolt of the Netherlands in one unbroken series. Perhaps the lowest form of historical art is that of breaking up the story into separate studies—in the fashion of Dr. Henry,—history of manners, history of religion, history of military events, history of literature, and the like. This sort of labour has, in truth, no right to the name of literary art. At best it produces only a series of studies. Such labour soon dies out. No book built up on this fragmentary principle of composition, though more than one has had conspicuous literary merits, has ever established an abiding hold on the great mass of readers. Books, if they are to please, must be alive; stories, if they are to move, must flow. Everything which checks the vitality or impedes the pace, whether it be dullness of brain—as in the case of Dr. Henry—or only defect of plan—as in this present instance of Dr. Motley—is a hindrance to success, putting in peril the most costly preparations of the scholar and the most brilliant gifts of the man.

In the third place (and the last, for we have no heart to go on counting flaws in a book which we have just been conning with extraordinary care and pleasure), there is overmuch of detail on the dry and fruitless correspondence of Queen Elizabeth, King Philip and Prince Alexander. This correspondence of these great personages has undoubtedly cost Dr. Motley pains to recover; but, like Gratiano's wit, though it may have taken him months to find, it was barely worth the search. A point here and there, a piquant word or two, a hint, an illustration, an exact date, are all one gains out of loads of waste. The story of the negotiations between Elizabeth and Parma before the attempt to invade England, negotiations so honestly conducted by the woman, and so falsely and foully by the man, is well known, at least in outline and in its main features, to every one who has read any history at all. A dozen pages would have held the few real additions made to the story which possess any human interest in these days of Victoria. Yet Dr. Motley, in the pride of possessing new materials and in the zeal for illustrating character, pauses for what

the general reader will resent as a wearisome length over these insincere and barren interchanges of courtesy. This breadth of needless detail is, in short, the chief flaw in his book—the cause of its too great length, and of its want of harmony and sequence. No one will find the chapter on the siege of Antwerp, or that on the league of Zutphen, or that on the resistance made by England to the Invincible Armada, one word too long. These chapters are, indeed, vivid, galloping and pictorial in the highest degree. If Dr. Motley would, even now, cut away half the diplomatic correspondence, there would remain for us, with some conspicuous flaws, a noble and brilliant book.

Taking the 'History of the Netherlands,' however, as it stands, with all its merits and defects, it is a very precious gift. The five years covered by its illustrations are the years 1585–89. Of this period, Elizabeth, Philip, and Alexander are the leading figures,—the siege of Antwerp, and the destruction of the Armada are the prominent events. The death of Sir Philip Sydney, at Zutphen, and the treachery of Sir William Stanley, at Deventer, are the most interesting of the episodes.

The characters are presented to the reader with the sharpness and decision of one who had known the originals in the life. Take this sitting from Philip as he toils in his secret chamber at the Escorial:—

"A small, dull, elderly, imperfectly-educated, patient, plodding invalid, with white hair and protruding under-jaw, and dreary visage, was sitting day after day, seldom speaking, never smiling, seven or eight hours out of every twenty-four, at a writing-table covered with heaps of interminable despatches, in a cabinet far away beyond the seas and mountains, in the very heart of Spain. A clerk or two, noiselessly opening and shutting the door, from time to time, fetching fresh bundles of letters and taking away others—all written and composed by secretaries or high functionaries—and all to be scrawled over in the margin by the diligent old man in a big schoolboy's hand and style—if ever schoolboy, even in the sixteenth century, could write so illegibly or express himself so awkwardly; couriers in the court-yard arriving from or departing for the uttermost parts of earth—Asia, Africa, America, Europe—to fetch and carry these interminable epistles which contained the irresponsible commands of this one individual, and were freighted with the doom and destiny of countless millions of the world's inhabitants—such was the system of government against which the Netherlands had protested and revolted. It was a system under which their fields had been made desolate, their cities burned and pillaged, their men hanged, burned, drowned, or hacked to pieces; their women subjected to every outrage; and to put an end to which they had been devoting their treasure and their blood for nearly the length of one generation. It was a system, too, which, among other results, had just brought about the death of the foremost statesman of Europe, and had nearly effected simultaneously the murder of the most eminent sovereign in the world. The industrious Philip, safe and tranquil in the depths of the Escorial, saying his prayers three times a day with exemplary regularity, had just sent three bullets through the body of William the Silent at his dining-room door in Delft. * * Invisible as the Grand Lama of Tibet, clothed with power as extensive and absolute as had ever been wielded by the most imperial Caesar, Philip the Prudent, as he grew older and feebler in mind and body, seemed to become more gluttonous of work, more ambitious to extend his sceptre over lands which he had never seen or dreamed of seeing, more fixed in his determination to annihilate that monster Protestantism, which it had been the business of his life to combat, more eager to put to death every human creature, whether anointed monarch or humble artisan, that defended heresy or opposed his progress to universal empire."

In the eleven hundred pages we get many another glimpse of this weak and wicked old man, as he sits at his writing-desk in the depths of his palace, signing with his coarse scrawl or rubric the death-warrants of hundreds and thousands of human beings in every part of the known world, men whom he had never seen, whose languages he could not speak, and whose feelings or motives he had none of the means to understand. For this King Philip, who could not bear that a single creature should believe otherwise than as he saw good, was intellectually one of the most despicable, as he was morally one of the most depraved, of men. Philip had not sense enough to see that he was but a tool and dupe in the hands of more sagacious knaves. Even these endless letters which he sent flying on all the winds of heaven to do their work of perfidy and crime in the most sacred of all sacred names, he could not himself indite or write. What he could do, was to read them when they had been fairly copied out, and to add, as an exercise of royal sagacity, his criticisms and commands on the margin. Many of these additions made by the kingly pen may still be read. Dr. Motley has collected two or three illustrative specimens, which the reader will peruse with smiles:—

"The handwriting of Spain and Italy at that day was beautiful, and in our modern eyes seems neither antiquated nor ungraceful. But Philip's scrawl was like that of a clown just admitted to a writing-school, and the whole margin of a fairly penned despatch, perhaps fifty pages long, laid before him for comment and signature by Idiaquez or Moura, would be sometimes covered with a few awkward sentences, which it was almost impossible to read, and which, when deciphered, were apt to reveal suggestions of astounding triviality. Thus a most important despatch—in which the King, with his own hand, was supposed to be conveying secret intelligence to Mendoza concerning the Armada, together with minute directions for the regulation of Guise's conduct at the memorable epoch of the barricades—contained but a single comment from the monarch's own pen. 'The Armada has been in Lisbon about a month—quasi un mes'—wrote the secretary. 'There is but one *s* in quasi,' said Philip. Again, a despatch of Mendoza to the King contained the intelligence that Queen Elizabeth was, at the date of the letter, residing at St. James's. Philip, who had no objection to display his knowledge of English affairs—as became the man who had already been almost sovereign of England, and meant to be entirely so—supplied a piece of information in an apostille to this despatch. 'St. James is a house of recreation,' he said, 'which was once a monastery. There is a park between it and the palace which is called Huytal; but *why it is called Huytal*, I am sure I don't know.' His researches in the English language had not enabled him to recognize the adjective and substantive out of which the abstruse compound White-Hall (*Huytal*) was formed. On another occasion, a letter from England containing important intelligence concerning the number of soldiers enrolled in that country to resist the Spanish invasion, the quantity of gunpowder and various munitions collected, with other details of like nature, furnished besides a bit of information of less vital interest. 'In the windows of the Queen's presence-chamber they have discovered a *great quantity of lice*, all clustered together,' said the writer. Such a minute piece of statistics could not escape the microscopic eye of Philip. So, disregarding the soldiers and the gunpowder, he commented *only* on this last-mentioned clause of the letter; and he did it cautiously too, as a King surnamed the Prudent should:—'But perhaps they were fleas,' wrote Philip. Such examples—and many more might be given—sufficiently indicate the nature of the man on whom such enormous responsibilities rested, and who had been, by the adulation of his fellow-creatures, elevated into a god."

Let us never, in our laughter and contempt,

forget that this man wanted to become our lord, and that Pope Sixtus, by a solemn bull, actually made us over to him body and soul. This prince was to rule over us by the grace of God and the thunder of Parma's guns, instead of our own Virgin Queen. History has many and many a passage on her page that reads like broad comedy rather than sober fact; yet surely it is the strangest practical jest recorded in human annals that this idiotic king should have sent his Invincible Armada to teach the countrymen and contemporaries of Bacon, Raleigh and Shakspeare what they were to think and how to act!

Dr. Motley's picture of Alexander Farnese, the Prince of Parma, is the most laboured of his book. Evidently this figure is that which is of the author himself best beloved. Dr. Motley is not content with presenting the figure to us once or twice: he recalls it again and again, and always with a new and endearing epithet, as if the artist felt a special and creative joy in the perfections, such as they are, of this work of his hands. This exquisite delight he has not the electrical power of passing, by a shock of sympathy, into the reader's mind. Alexander is, and remains, a dark figure in a picture gallery: well painted—over well painted—yet a mere breadth of canvas, not a living, true, or enduring man. What he is here we see him always:—

"Alexander was never more truly heroic than in this position of vast entanglement. Untiring, uncomplaining, thoughtful of others, prodigal of himself, generous, modest, brave; with so much intellect and so much devotion to what he considered his duty, he deserved to be a patriot and a champion of the right, rather than an instrument of despotism. And thus he paused for a moment—with much work already accomplished, but his hardest life-task before him; still in the noon of manhood, a fine martial figure, standing, spear in hand, full in the sunlight, though all the scene around him was wrapped in gloom—a noble, commanding shape, entitled to the admiration which the energetic display of great powers, however unscrupulous, must always command. A dark, meridional physiognomy, a quick, alert, imposing head; jet black, close-clipped hair; a bold eagle's face, with full, bright, restless eye; a man rarely reposing, always ready, never alarmed; living in the saddle, with harness on his back—such was the Prince of Parma; matured and mellowed, but still unharmed by time."

An Englishman's objection to Alexander Farnese is not merely that he was our enemy. Tromp was our enemy; Washington was our enemy. We can quarrel, and yet be just. But we have an ineradicable love for fair play, and a measureless contempt for men who dodge and cheat. We bear Napoleon and Nicholas no ill-will. We fought these men, and there an end. We have had in our national life of a thousand years many a more deadly tug than with Alexander; but we loathe his name as that of the most stupendous liar with whom this country ever had, in a public and political action, the misery to deal. Strings of adjectives, though miles in length, will never change a true Englishman's contempt for this trickster into toleration for his character, much less into approval of his conduct and his crimes.

How these two consummate liars and hypocrites, while smiling and negotiating with Elizabeth, were, on false pretences of many kinds, preparing that gigantic Armada to invade her realm which became the historical burlesque of modern times—the most marvellous farce ever witnessed by the sun, we need not pause to tell. The American writer, who is uniformly unjust to the Queen and the English government, denying them any credit for their prevision

and preparation, is in serious error when he hastily infers, from the continuance of negotiations, that the lies of Parma had a complete success in London. In fact, they were not believed at all, and they deceived nobody but himself and his royal uncle. In our State Paper Office Dr. Motley might discover ample evidence in the musters and armaments that the English Council put no trust in Parma or in Philip. The legend about England being always taken by surprise in her military operations, is a favourite illusion of the foreign mind, American apparently as well as French. But the Lord Admiral Howard was no more surprised by the appearance of the galleons of Medina Sidonia than the Duke of Wellington was surprised by the roar of Napoleon's guns at Waterloo. The results ought to warn our foreign critics against the perpetual imputation of unreadiness. If the lion be always found asleep, why is he never slain? All that wise forethought and patriotic warmth could do to meet the danger coming in from Spain had been calmly, soberly, in progress of achievement during many months; so that when the enemy hove in sight off Plymouth, the country was prepared to meet him by either sea or land,—and not the least by land. The waste, the improvidence, the fatal omissions were, in sober truth, on the other side. Philip and Parma, meshed in an elaborate system of deception, which they had carried on for years, made the awful mistake, for them and for their purpose, of believing that they had completely blinded the English Court, and that, consequently, when their hour of perfidy should come, they would find England disarmed and at their feet. That delusion cost Spain her navy.

Dr. Motley, who makes a thousand sharp comments on the shortcomings of England, has not a word to say on Philip's lucky, but amazing blunder, of sending a fleet to conquer England with a number of English mariners on board as slaves. How the blood tingles, after three centuries, at this tale of the captive Gwynn!—

"With 'as much sluggishness as might have been expected from their clumsy architecture, the ships of the Armada consumed nearly three weeks in sailing from Lisbon to the neighbourhood of Cape Finisterre. Here they were overtaken by a tempest, and were scattered hither and thither, almost at the mercy of the winds and waves; for those unwieldy hulks were ill adapted to a tempest in the Bay of Biscay. There were those in the Armada, however, to whom the storm was a blessing. David Gwynn, a Welsh mariner, had sat in the Spanish hulks a wretched galley-slave—as prisoner of war—for more than eleven years, hoping, year after year, for a chance of escape from bondage. He sat now among the rowers of the great galley, the Vasana, one of the humblest instruments by which the subjugation of his native land to Spain and Rome was to be effected. Very naturally, among the ships which suffered most in the gale were the four huge unwieldy galleys—a squadron of four under Don Diego de Medrado—with their enormous turrets at stem and stern, and their low and open waists. The chapels, pulpits, and gilded Madonnas proved of little avail in a hurricane. The Diana, largest of the four, went down with all hands; the Princess was labouring severely in the trough of the sea, and the Vasana was likewise in imminent danger. So the master of this galley asked the Welsh slave, who had far more experience and seamanship than he possessed himself, if it were possible to save the vessel. Gwynn saw an opportunity for which he had been waiting eleven years. He was ready to improve it. He pointed out to the captain the hopelessness of attempting to overtake the Armada. They should go down, he said, as the Diana had already done, and as the Princess was like at any moment to do, unless they took in every rag of sail, and did their best with their oars to gain the nearest port. But

in order that the rowers might exert themselves to the utmost, it was necessary that the soldiers, who were a useless incumbrance on deck, should go below. Thus only could the ship be properly handled. The captain, anxious to save his ship and his life, consented. Most of the soldiers were sent beneath the hatches: a few were ordered to sit on the benches among the slaves. Now there had been a secret understanding for many days among these unfortunate men, nor were they wilfully without weapons. They had been accustomed to make toothpicks and other trifling articles for sale out of broken sword-blades and other refuse bits of steel. There was not a man among them who had not thus provided himself with a secret stiletto. At first Gwynn occupied himself with arrangements for weathering the gale. So soon however as the ship had been made comparatively easy, he looked around him, suddenly threw down his cap, and raised his hand to the rigging. It was a preconcerted signal. The next instant he stabbed the captain to the heart, while each one of the galley-slaves killed the soldier nearest him; then, rushing below, they surprised and overpowered the rest of the troops, and put them all to death. Coming again upon deck, David Gwynn descried the fourth galley of the squadron, called the Royal, commanded by Commodore Medrado in person, bearing down upon them, before the wind. It was obvious that the Vasana was already an object of suspicion. 'Comrades,' said Gwynn, 'God has given us liberty, and by our courage we must prove ourselves worthy of the boon.' As he spoke there came a broadside from the galley Royal which killed nine of his crew. David, nothing daunted, laid his ship close alongside of the Royal, with such a shock that the timbers quivered again. Then at the head of his liberated slaves, now thoroughly armed, he dashed on board the galley, and, after a furious conflict, in which he was assisted by the slaves of the Royal, succeeded in mastering the vessel, and putting all the Spanish soldiers to death. This done, the combined rowers, welcoming Gwynn as their deliverer from an abject slavery which seemed their lot for life, willingly accepted his orders. The gale had meantime abated, and the two galleys, well conducted by the experienced and intrepid Welshman, made their way to the coast of France, and landed at Bayonne on the 31st, dividing among them the property found on board the two galleys. Thence, by land, the fugitives, four hundred and sixty-six in number—Frenchmen, Spaniards, Englishmen, Turks and Moors, made their way to Rochelle. Gwynn had an interview with Henry of Navarre, and received from that chivalrous king a handsome present. Afterwards he found his way to England, and was well commended by the Queen. The rest of the liberated slaves dispersed in various directions. This was the first adventure of the Invincible Armada. Of the squadron of galleys, one was already sunk in the sea, and two of the others had been conquered by their own slaves."

As they began so they went on. We need not once again go over the hot, bright tale of the reception met with by this Invincible Armada, from the moment it appeared off the Devonshire coast,—the long-continued battle waged by the alert, unconquerable English fleet up Channel,—the glorious action off Portland Bill,—the alarm of fire off Calais,—the swift and splendid chase along the low Dutch sands,—and the final skurry of the lumbering, shattered and defeated galleons into the Danish and Norwegian seas. Every Englishman has this glorious tale by heart. We pause, however, at an episode in the action off Calais:—

"In the immediate neighbourhood of Calais, the flag-ship of the squadron of galleasses, commanded by Don Hugo de Moncada, was discovered using her foresail and oars, and endeavouring to enter the harbour. She had been damaged by collision with the St. John of Sicily and other ships, during the night's panic, and had her rudder quite torn away. She was the largest and most splendid vessel in the Armada—the show-ship of the fleet, 'the very glory and stay of the Spanish

navy;' and during the previous two days she had been visited and admired by great numbers of Frenchmen from the shore. Lord Admiral Howard bore down upon her at once, but as she was already in shallow water, and was rowing steadily towards the town, he saw that the Ark could not follow with safety. So he sent his long-boat to cut her out, manned with fifty or sixty volunteers, most of them 'as valiant in courage as gentle in birth'—as a partaker in the adventure declared. The Margaret and Joan of London, also following in pursuit, ran herself a-ground, but the master despatched his pinnace with a body of musketeers, to aid in the capture of the galleasse. That huge vessel failed to enter the harbour, and stuck fast upon the bar. There was much dismay on board, but Don Hugo prepared resolutely to defend himself. The quays of Calais and the line of the French shore were lined with thousands of eager spectators, as the two boats—rowing steadily towards a galleasse, which carried forty brass pieces of artillery, and was manned with three hundred soldiers and four hundred and fifty slaves—seemed rushing upon their own destruction. Of these daring Englishmen, patricians and plebeians together, in two open pinnaces, there were not more than one hundred in number, all told. They soon laid themselves close to the Capitana, far below her lofty sides, and called on Don Hugo to surrender. The answer was a smile of derision from the haughty Spaniard, as he looked down upon them from what seemed an inaccessible height. Then one Wilton, coxswain of the Delight of Winter's squadron, clambered up to the enemy's deck and fell dead the same instant. Then the English Volunteers opened a volley upon the Spaniards. 'They seemed safely ensconced in their ships,' said the bold Dick Tomson, of the Margaret and Joan, 'while we in our open pinnaces and far under them, had nothing to shroud and cover us.' Moreover the numbers were seven hundred and fifty to one hundred. But the Spaniards, still quite disconcerted by the events of the preceding night, seemed under a spell. Otherwise it would have been an easy matter for the great galleasse to annihilate such puny antagonists in a very short space of time. The English pelted the Spaniards quite cheerfully, however, with arquebus-shot, whenever they showed themselves, above the bulwarks, picked off a considerable number, and sustained a rather severe loss themselves, Lieut. Preston, of the Ark Royal, among others, being dangerously wounded. 'We had a pretty skirmish for half-an-hour,' said Tomson. At last Don Hugo de Moncada, furious at the inefficiency of his men, and lending them forward in person, fell back on his deck with a bullet through both eyes. The panic was instantaneous, for meantime, several other English boats—some with eight, ten, or twelve men on board—were seen pulling towards the galleasse; while the dismayed soldiers at once leaped overboard on the land side, and attempted to escape by swimming and wading to the shore. Some of them succeeded, but the greater number were drowned. The few who remained—not more than twenty in all—hoisted two handkerchiefs upon two rapiers as a signal of truce. The English, accepting it as a symbol of defeat, scrambled with great difficulty up the lofty sides of the Capitana, and for an hour-and-a-half occupied themselves most agreeably in plundering the ship and in liberating the slaves."

Yet, in the face of facts like these, Dr. Motley fancies that but for certain accidents of wind or weather, of time and place, the Prince of Parma might have gained a victory over four million countrymen of gallant Dick Tomson; and he writes a long chapter to show that if such or such a thing had happened, which he thinks might have happened—if this Dutch skipper had not lain here, or that bold Zealander had not watched there—the Spaniards would have marched on London, and England would have passed away from the earth like a dream! We do not care to dispute this American reading of the ignominiously defeated attempt at a Spanish invasion of our country.

Medina Sidonia came and went away. But the miseries of the Spaniards only began with their retreat. The shattered remnants of the mighty armament shrank back to Spain, without having burnt an English hayrick or taken an English cockboat. But they went back to their ports and havens lighting to Coruña, Lisbon and Cadiz those avenging fleets which, under Drake, Howard and Raleigh, were so soon to read a brilliant comment on this absurd French and American fiction of England the Unready.

Our Exemplars, Poor and Rich; or, Biographical Sketches of Men and Women who have, by an extraordinary Use of their Opportunities, benefited their Fellow-Creatures. Edited by Matthew Davenport Hill, Recorder of Birmingham. With a Preface by Lord Brougham. (Cassell, Petter & Galpin.)

A book edited by Mr. Commissioner Hill and enriched with a Preface by Lord Brougham has claims for prompt and respectful consideration. On first taking the volume in hand, and before reading the title-page, we feared that it was only another compilation of memoirs of successful men, making the attainment of wealth the great end of existence, and holding out a career of triumphant commercial enterprise as that which, beyond all others, an intelligent artisan should be especially ambitious of achieving. We are glad to say that these anticipations were disappointed. Instead of preaching to the workman that in these "hard times" his wisest course is to work double hours, to screw and pinch, to deny himself the simple pleasures that enrich the moral nature greatly, while they exhaust the pocket only a little,—to be always bent on making some small worldly gain, to cultivate the mind with an eye to the main chance,—eschewing Poetry and Music and the Fine Arts, because time spent on them does not lead to money, and continually revolving the principles of Mechanics and Natural Philosophy, because they may conduct to a new invention and to wealth, Mr. Hill does not fear to tell his humble fellow-countrymen some old, wholesome, much-neglected truths:—that man does not live by bread alone—that the lucky speculator is no winner who gains the whole world and loses his own soul. There has of late been a pernicious and corrupting use made of the lives of men who have bettered their social condition through brave exertion, aided by fortunate circumstances, amongst which the possession of rare intellectual endowments appeared only as one of many conditions present that were primarily independent of the volition of the individual. A fashion has recently come over the platform and the pamphlet, for the rich to inculcate in the poor a doctrine which on more than one occasion in the world's history the poor have signally declined to accept,—that riches and honour are and ought to be synonymous. Whatever may be the shortcomings of Mr. Davenport Hill's biographical collection, he merits applause and gratitude for raising his voice like a man against this shameful idolatry of Mammon. The "self-help" that he admires is not the self-help of the mere hard man of practice; the self-help that consists in helping one's-self to the greatest possible quantity of this world's goods, and leaving as little as possible whereby others may help themselves; the self-help of the lynx-eyed speculator who seizes to his own use the discovery of a starving inventor; nor even the self-help of the plodding, persevering, patient workman who, by thrift and scraping, puts himself in a position that entitles him to the earnings of his old comrades of the workshop. Amongst

Mr. Hill's "Exemplars" are both rich and poor,—rich persons who have gloriously exercised the influence of their wealth,—poor persons whose poverty never goaded them into selfishness,—poor persons still living who have proposed nobler work to themselves than self-aggrandizement. Amongst Mr. Hill's exemplars are the Earl of Shaftesbury, the King of Portugal, Lady Noel Byron, John Bunyan, Father Mathew, and Sarah Martin. John Smeaton and Sir Rowland Hill are mentioned in appropriate terms; and a beautifully-written memoir of Jacques Jasmin pays homage to the muse of the poor man's cabin.

Here are some pleasant anecdotes of the present King of Portugal:—

"The King, who at the outbreak of the pestilence was only twenty years old, felt it to be his duty to remain at his capital, and do all he could towards mitigating the calamity. To effect this object, he did not confine himself to presiding over councils or to discussing means of alleviation in his cabinet; he went himself among the sick. We were told that he would continually visit the hospitals both by day and night, coming in a hired street-carriage, with a single companion, that he might prevent any preparations for his reception, and ascertain for himself in what manner the patients were treated. On one occasion, it is said, he found a medical man feeling the pulse of his patient with his glove on, hoping thereby to escape contagion. We may imagine the King's indignant reproof to the timorous doctor. At another time the spectacle was more gratifying. He was just entering a ward when he heard a physician trying to re-assure a patient, who was in a drooping state, with kind and soothing words. Don Pedro remained outside until the doctor had ceased speaking, when he entered, extending his hand towards him. The physician, recognizing his sovereign, attempted to go down upon his knees, and kiss the hand thus held out. 'No,' said the King; 'you have behaved like a brother to that poor, sick man, and I am proud to shake hands with you.'"

We have all smiled at the power of the telegraph to bring you an answer yesterday to a telegram despatched to-morrow. Here is a story to the point:—

"Lord Byron tells us that it was by no means safe, when he visited the Portuguese metropolis, in 1809, to walk in its streets unarmed, even in daylight. Times are much improved since then. When we were there, we found the streets of Lisbon quite as safe as those of London. The city wore a very lively appearance during our sojourn. We were met at every turn by preparations for the reception of the King's bride, the Princess Stephanie of Hohenzollern, who had been already married to him by proxy, in Berlin, and was then on her voyage to Lisbon. She passed through England, remaining a short time on a visit to our Queen, and won all hearts by the charm of her manners and conversation. It is curious to remark, that Don Pedro heard of his marriage a quarter of an hour before it took place—at least, the telegram, announcing the completion of the ceremony, reached Lisbon a quarter of an hour earlier than the time of its date at Berlin."

Here is an affecting episode in the life of Jacques Jasmin, the barber-poet of Agen, of which town Palissy the potter and Lacépède the naturalist were natives, and where Julius Scaliger lived, and his son, Joseph Julius, was born:—

"At length aid came, in the shape of a free admission to school for Jacques. In six months he had learnt to read; soon afterwards he was received into the church-choir, and distinguishing himself there, he was admitted *gratis* into the seminary conducted by priests. Here he won a somewhat unusual prize—a worn-out cassock; remodelled and re-trimmed, it was doubtless very acceptable, in his mother's eyes at least, for Jacques, it must be owned, did not relish appearing in so queer a garment. But a reverse was at

hand. The lad indulged in some boyish pranks, which caused him to be expelled from the seminary, and running home, the news he brought spread consternation in the family. It was Shrove Tuesday, and, probably to celebrate the last day appropriated to feasting before Lent, a morsel of meat had been prepared for dinner. The poor mother, however, thought of the bread which she had been accustomed to receive as a gift from the seminary, and feeling that Jacques's misconduct would deprive them of this important supply, she burst into tears. But suddenly she went out, bidding the children wait and hope, and soon returned with some bread. All but Jacques were content to eat without seeking to know whence the food came; he pondered the matter, until, glancing at his mother's hand, he saw her wedding-ring was gone. She had sold it to purchase bread in the place of that lost through his misdeeds."

The following correspondence will not escape the notice of a future D'Israeli:—

"During one of those tours which for the last sixteen years he has frequently made through the South of France, and which are one succession of recitations and of ovations, a poet in the Department of L'Hérault—a poet who wrote in *patois* too—named Peyrottes, a potter by trade, and who had gained some reputation, though far below that of Jasmin, sent him, by letter, a challenge. Jasmin was then passing through Montpellier:—'Sir,' wrote Peyrottes, December 24th, 1847, 'I venture in my rashness—which, indeed, borders upon impudence—to send you a challenge. Will you condescend to accept it? In the middle ages the Troubadours would not have disdained the defiance which I, in my hardihood, am offering to you. I will come to Montpellier upon any day, at any hour you will mention. We will appoint four persons acquainted with literature to assign us three subjects, upon which we will speak within twenty-four hours. We will both be shut up, and a sentinel shall guard the door. Victuals only shall be allowed to enter. As a child of L'Hérault, I maintain the honour and glory of my birthplace. In such a case as this charity must, of course, have her place. We will, therefore, have the three compositions printed, for the benefit of the Crèche at Montpellier. I would gladly enter the lists with you to recite, but a very marked defect in my speech forbids me.' In a postscript to this defiant letter, he adds:—'I give you notice, sir, that I shall immediately distribute at Montpellier copies of this letter.' Here, then, was Jasmin pre-emptorily called upon—and as a point of honour—to improvise. Will he meet his antagonist? Let us listen to his charming response, and to the lesson which it contains for others besides the potter-poet.—'Sir,—I received only the day before yesterday, on the eve of my departure, your poetic challenge; but I am bound to tell you that had it reached me at a more opportune time, I could not have accepted it. Why, sir, you propose to my muse, who loves the open air and liberty so dearly, to shut herself up in a locked chamber, guarded by four sentinels, who shall let nothing pass but victuals, and there to compose upon three given subjects within twenty-four hours! Three subjects in twenty-four hours! Sir, you make me tremble. The peril with which you threaten my muse compels me to confess, in all humility, that she is simple enough to copy the antique so far as to grant me only two or three lines in a day. My five poems, 'The Blind Girl,' 'My Recollections,' 'Franconnette,' 'Mad Martha,' and 'The Two Twins,' have cost me twelve years' labour, and yet all, put together, amount to but two thousand four hundred lines. Thus you see the chances would not be equal; our two muses would scarcely have been made prisoners before yours would well nigh have completed her triple task; while mine, poor little thing, would still have been waiting for the moment of inspiration. I dare not therefore enter the lists with you. The steed which with difficulty drags along his car, although he reaches the goal in course of time, cannot compete with the fiery engine on the railway. The skill which produces verses only line by line cannot enter into competition with the wholesale power of machinery. Thus, my muse declares herself van-

quished beforehand; and I authorize you to publish her declaration. I am, Sir, your most obedient servant, JACQUES JASMIN. P.S. Now that you understand the muse, in two words you may understand the man also. I love glory; but the success of another never disturbs my slumbers.'"

So much are we pleased with the tone and tendency of Mr. Hill's volume, leading its reader to disown the servile worship of material prosperity, which is just now disfiguring literature and doing injury to society, that we should be glad to hear of a larger gathering of "Our Exemplars."

The Conduct of Life. By Ralph Waldo Emerson. (Smith, Elder & Co.)

MANY "seeking souls" will be looking forward to this new book from Mr. Emerson, in the hope that therein they may find words of help and guidance for themselves in the conduct of their own life. We are very sorry to have to warn them that they will be disappointed—

The hungry sheep look up—and are not fed.

We are sorry; for to be disappointed by a man who has given them reason to hope that he can show them the solution of some of the dark enigmas and hard problems of life, converting these into instruction, makes men feel "poor indeed!"

Many persons have had a superstition about Mr. Emerson, and many owe him gratitude for what he has formerly said and written; but the present work on "the conduct of life" shows his limits. He has come to the end of all he had to say, and is repeating himself, but with a colder and more feeble utterance. He has been chewing his own cud until all savour and nutriment have gone out of it. He is to become a scarecrow likeness of Mr. Carlyle, wearing his old clothes—with a difference. It would be difficult for the most ingenuous youth to find a work less adapted to help him in the "conduct of life." Not only is the work utterly unpractical, but it is utterly unsuggestive. We take all works of this class not for what they actually say, but for the sake of the proximate truths which the intelligent reader may draw from them and adjust for himself,—for the *spirit*, not for the letter. One disappointment in the present work is that no noble, or heroic, or generous frame of mind is induced by it; there is nothing either stimulating or fertilizing in its effect. The words fall like a cold, drizzling rain, and the thoughts and sentiments have as much shape and consistency as the driving wreaths of mist. Mr. Emerson himself appears to have reached a sublime centre of indifference, from which he contemplates life and human things as a spectacle, which he declares "*pleases at a sufficient perspective.*" To him, human life, with its joys and sorrows, has become a dumb phantasmagoria. It may add considerably to his own comfort to be out of the hearing and beyond the influence of the noise, the labour, and the hopes and fears of men; but it destroys his power to be a friend or teacher. He has lost the power to sympathize. What he has gained in height, he has lost in breadth. There is no rhythm in the style, nor any breath of eloquence; the sentences are mechanical in their hard, dry, dogmatic utterances upon all that is most vital in the life and experience of men. The effect is the calmness of self-complacency, not the repose of the wisdom that comprehends. The spirit of his book is shown by one small remark, that in works of charity the first thing that strikes him is—the small value of those whom you are asked to save. The man who feels thus, will never be a world-wide teacher. In the *Essay on Fate*,

he says:—"The German and Irish millions, like the Negro, have a great deal of guano in their destiny. They are ferried over the Atlantic, and carted over America, to ditch and to drudge, to make corn cheap, and then to lie down prematurely, to make a spot of green grass on the prairie." Again:—"Most men and women are but one couple more. Now and then, one has a new cell, a new camarilla, opened in his brain; some stray taste for flowers, or chemistry, or pigments, or story-telling, which still nowise alters rank in the scale of Nature, but serves to pass the time, the life of sensation going on as before."

The mass of human nature is not very beautiful, nor are all men what one would choose for bosom friends, but they are our fellow men; and how different in its utterance is the voice of that Apostle of the Gentiles, who declared that the "Lord of heaven and earth hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, that they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from any one of us. For we are also his offspring." It was for his faith in these unhappy human beings with so much "guano in their destiny" that the Great Teacher of Mankind dared to die, and it was amongst such that he passed the days of his life, preaching to them and teaching them—words of life. Love and pity are the first qualities a man needs who sets up for a teacher; and patience as of the Infinite.

To examine Mr. Emerson's book more in detail. There are nine essays in all:—Fate—Power—Wealth—Culture—Behaviour—Worship—Considerations by the Way—Beauty—Illusions. In Fate he undertakes to state the absolute conditions under which a man comes into the world, that which is put upon him from the first, about which he has had no choice, and from which he has no escape—such are his birth, parentage and personal endowments:—

"When each comes forth from his mother's womb [says Mr. Emerson] the gate of gifts closes behind him. Let him value his hands and feet—he has but one pair. So he has but one future, and that is already pre-determined and described in that little fatty face, pig eye, and squat form. All the privilege and all the legislation in the world cannot meddle or help to make a poet or a prince of him."

Human nature is not a pea to be put under a thimble after this fashion; anyhow, it refuses to stay there. If there is one thing more than another that excites the indignation of men it is the attempt to fix FINALITY upon them in any shape whatever, whether it be a question of destiny or a measure of policy. Men resent it as an insolence. They are vaguely conscious of the immense unrealized possibilities of life:

We feel that we are greater than we know.

Mr. Emerson does not confine himself to the fixed circumstances of Fate. He proceeds to discourse on the freedom of the subject:—"But to see how Fate slides into Freedom and Freedom into Fate. Observe how far the roots of every creature run. Or find, if you can, a point where there is no connexion. Our life is consensaneous and far related. This knot of Nature is so cunningly tied that nobody was ever cunning enough to find the two ends." The following moralizing is for those who can use it:—

"But Fate has its lord, limitation its limits—is different seen from above and from below, from within and from without; for though Fate is immense so is Power, which is the other fact in the dual world immense. We must respect Fate as natural history. But there is more than natural history. For who, and what, is this criticism that pries into the matter? Man is not order of Nature, nor any ignominious baggage, but a stupendous

antagonism—a dragging together of the poles of the universe. He betrays his relation to what is below him;—thick-skulled, small-brained, quadrumanous, quadruped ill-disguised, hardly escaped into biped, and has paid for new powers by loss of some old ones. But the lightning which explodes and fashions planets—maker of suns and planets—is in him. On one side elemental order, sandstone and granite, rock-ledge, peat-bog, forest, sea, and shore; and on the other part, thought—the spirit which composes and decomposes nature. Here they are, side by side—god and devil—mind and matter, riding peacefully together in the eye and brain of every man. * * As soon as there is life, there is self-direction, and absorbing and using of material. Life is freedom—Life in the direct ratio of its amount."

Those last words seem to be the text of the book.

"The soul contains the event that shall befall it, for the event is only the actualization of its thought; and what we pray for to ourselves is always granted. The event is the print of your form. It fits you like your skin. What each does is proper for him. Events are the children of his body and mind."

Again:—

"So the great man, that is, the man most imbued with the spirit of the time, is the impressionable man—of a fibre irritable and delicate, like iodine to light. He feels the infinitesimal attractions. His mind is lighter than others because he yields to a current so feeble as can be felt only by a needle delicately poised."

Then follows a dogma, which we commend to the personal consideration of all whose own looking-glass tells them it concerns:—

"The correlation is shown in defects. Möller, in his Essay on Architecture, taught that the building which was fitted accurately to answer its end, would turn out to be beautiful, though Beauty had not been intended. I find the like unity in human structures rather virulent and pervasive;—a hump in the shoulder will appear in the speech and handiwork. If his mind could be seen, the hump would be seen. If a man has a see-saw in his voice it will run into his sentences, into his poem, into the structure of his fable, into his speculation, into his charity. And as every man is hunted by his own demon, vexed by his own disease, this checks all his activity."

Here, however, is the comfort Mr. Emerson gives such a man; let him be thankful and make the most of it:—

"One key, one solution to the mysteries of human condition, one solution to the old knots of fate, freedom and foreknowledge, exists—the propounding namely of the double consciousness. So when a man is the victim of his fate, has sciatica in his loins, and cramp in his mind, a club foot, and a club in his wit; a sour face and a selfish temper; a strut in his gait and a conceit in his affection; or is ground to powder by the vices of his race; *he is to rally on his relation to the universe which his ruin benefits.* Leaving the demon who suffers, he is to take sides with the Deity who secures universal benefit by his pain. * * by the cunning co-presence of two elements, which is throughout nature. Whatever lames or paralyzes you, draws in with it the divinity in some form to repay. A good intention clothes itself with sudden power. When a god wishes to ride, any chip or pebble will bnd and shoot out winged feet, and serve him for a horse. Let us build altars to the Blessed Unity, which holds nature and souls in perfect solution, and compels every atom to serve a universal end!"

One remarkable point in this work is, that throughout Mr. Emerson treats an illustration as equivalent to an argument,—as quite equal to a proof; and an assertion as superior to both,—it contains them. How an unfortunate mortal, born under the condition of ugliness, is to get the good thought which is to give him the power to "rally on his relation to the universe," Mr. Emerson does not tell,—it is one of the secrets for the elect, which he keeps to himself, if he has discovered it.

Having delivered his oracle on Fate, Mr. Emerson goes on to discourse of Power—the antagonist of Fate. Second only to his horror of ugliness, or deformity, is his scorn of all sickness, ill-health, and bodily infirmity,—especially of those unhappy ones who dare to complain, who venture to recognize their own ailments in the most distant manner. As to asking or expecting sympathy, that is too contemptible. Let them rather slink out of human sight and die, and at least do their duty as—guano. Mr. Emerson worships bodily health and muscular force; it is his only basis of Power:—

"We must [says he] reckon success a constitutional trait. For performance of great mark, it needs extraordinary health. There is no chance in results. The first wealth is health. Sickness is poor-spirited, and cannot serve any one; it must husband its resources to live. But health or fullness answers its own ends, and has to spare,—runs over and inundates the neighbourhoods and creeks of other men's necessities. All power is one kind—a sharing of the nature of the world. * * And we have a certain instinct, that where is a great amount of life, though gross and peccant, it has its own checks and purifications, and will be found at last in harmony with moral laws. Those who have the most of this coarse energy, the 'bruisers,' who have run the gauntlet of 'caucus' and tavern through the county or the State, have their own vices; but they have the good nature of strength and courage. Fierce and unscrupulous, they are at least frank, direct, and above falsehood."

Mr. Emerson considers those "legislators in shirt-sleeves," as he calls them,—Hoosier, Sucker, Wolverine, Badger, or whatever hard heads, half-orator half-assassin, Oregon, Arkansas, Utah sends to represent its wrath or cupidity,—are like the ancient barbarians to the effete Roman citizens. For ourselves, we doubt the goodness and the grace of men who have graduated in bar-rooms, and under the stimulus of strong drinks. Mr. Emerson pauses to eulogize a surly Boniface in a rural capital, though he owns "there was no crime which he did not, or could not, commit"; that he united in his own person the functions of bully, incendiary, swindler, bar-keeper and burglar. He girded the trees, and cut off the tails of the horses of the temperance-people during the night,—he led the "rummies" and radicals in town-meetings with a speech,—with all which he had the sense to see the value of improvements, and set his brute force in their favour, and carried them. But the whole essay on Power is open to grievous misconception. The assertions are too sharp, too sweeping, too paradoxical for the ground they have to stand upon. Let the candid reader imagine the effect of such teaching as the following upon any Young Men's Christian Association. Does Mr. Emerson mean it for instruction in doctrine? or does he really mean it as a fact to be followed? He says:—

"In trade, this energy usually carries a trace of ferocity. Philanthropic and religious bodies do not commonly make their executive officers out of saints. The communities hitherto founded by Socialists,—the Jesuits, the Port-Royalists, the American communities at New Harmony, Brook Farm, and Zoar,—are only possible by installing Judas as steward. The rest of the offices may be filled by good bourgeois. * * It is an esoteric doctrine in society that a little wickedness is good to make muscle,—as if conscience were not good for hands and legs,—as if poor decayed formulists of law and order cannot run like wild goats, wolves and conies,—that, as there is a use in medicine for poisons, so the world cannot move without rogues."

Of course we do not suppose that Mr. Emerson inculcates swindling,—he only means that all energy and aptitude is so much force and animal life; or, as he expresses it elsewhere, "all *plus* is good, only put it in the

right place." But Mr. Emerson's whole book is full of wild, startling assertions, which he is not at the pains to work out and elaborate into their just proportions, to balance, or to guard either in letter or in spirit from the misconception of half-educated, untrained readers, from the weak and confused in judgment. With these Mr. Emerson has no sympathy; and yet a very wise old lawgiver pronounced a judgment against those who "caused the Blind to go out of his way," and this holds against those who cause the ignorant to err as well as the physically sightless. The whole book on "the conduct of life" deals hastily and superficially with the great problems and questions which lie at the root of the Tree of Life, and which may not rashly nor lightly be opened up, not, at any rate, by one who only flings about paradoxes as a fool flings firebrands, without taking the time or the trouble needful to work them out, to show whence they came and whither they tend. As one who has earned the reputation of a man of character and high personal morality, Mr. Emerson has no right to indulge in unguarded assertions, which, from him, come with a weight which they would not have from the pen of a more suspected author. Those who have the charge of children are bound to be careful of every word they utter, watchful over act and look;—relatively to Mr. Emerson, many of his readers are but children. But he has no love in his heart, no reverence for his fellow men; he has as little sympathy with their virtues as with their temptations and crimes. It is not to be supposed, however, that there are no valuable axioms in the book; here is one which may be written in letters of gold:—

"Enlarge not thy destiny, says the oracle; endeavour not to do more than is given thee in charge: the one prudence of life is concentration; the one evil is dissipation; and it makes no difference whether our dissipations are coarse or fine. Property and its cares, friends and a social habit, or politics, or music, or feasting,—every thing is good which takes away one plaything and delusion more, and drives us home to add one stroke of faithful work. Friends, books, pictures, *lower duties*, talents, flatteries, hopes,—all are distractions which cause oscillations in our giddy balloon, and make a good poise and a straight course impossible. You must elect your work; you shall take what your brain can, and drop the rest. Only so can that amount of vital force accumulate which can make the step from knowing to doing."

Such teaching is not new,—but it is well said, and it is a lesson that cannot be too often told. Again, he says:—"Concentration is the secret of strength."—"The second substitute for temperament is drill, the power of use and routine." These may be truisms, but truisms uttered by a master have an emphasis added to them which impresses the disciple.

In the essay on "Wealth," Mr. Emerson is as inexorable in requiring a man to be in easy circumstances as he is in exacting beauty and health. He begins by announcing that "He is no whole man until he knows how to earn a blameless livelihood. * * He is by constitution expensive, and needs to be rich. He cannot do justice to his genius without making some larger demand on the world than a bare subsistence." "Man was born to be rich, or inevitably grows rich by the use of his faculties." So thought and acted (*minus* the honesty) Pullinger, Redpath, and many others, whose "use of their faculties" brought them into collision with law and justice, which barbarously refused to recognize the extenuating circumstance of an "expensive constitution."

Mr. Emerson entirely ignores the competition in all trades—the difficulty of "getting work," and the difficulties that beset the art of "earning money." It is enough to put a

practical man beside his patience to see the jaunty, complacent, and utterly unpractical manner in which Mr. Emerson handles this subject. The one dogma that will detach itself from all the rest, and impresses itself on the heart of the candid disciple is, that he must get plenty of money—"more than he requires for a bare subsistence"—if he would "do justice to his genius":—not exactly the teaching adapted to make men of an heroic stamp.

There are some wise observations about debt, thrift, economy, and concentration, which—although they are written in the pages of Franklin and Poor Richard—sound like words of King Solomon, coming as they do in the midst of so much that is rash and unguarded.

All the observations as to the best use of wealth are good—not new, not very profound, but reasonable and well said, and with a wise spirit.

A man being handsome, healthy, strong, and wealthy, needs culture;—accordingly, "Culture" is the next essay—Culture which is to restore man to the balance of his powers, which concentration on his chief business has deranged. Culture is to bring him back to the symmetry which belongs to a well-balanced human being. It is, on the whole, a good chapter. The things said and inculcated are commonplace, and have been often and often taught before—so often that, except for the fact that men never learn their lesson of life perfectly, and never can transmit it to their children, there would have been no need to repeat it. But as things are, the need exists always, and this essay on Culture is good, though it is needless to remark that there are no practical directions in it. But the spirit is good and sound, and the student must supply the details for himself. In the essay on "Behaviour" there are some good observations, but there is nothing that Mr. Emerson has not said in his earlier essays with more of force and originality. The essay on "Worship" will find so many objectors that we will not add to the number of hard words which it will be sure to provoke. Mr. Emerson is a sincere man, and piques himself on saying what he thinks. He says:—

"I do not fear scepticism for any good soul. A just thinker will allow full swing to his scepticism. I dip my pen in the blackest ink because I am not afraid of falling into my inkpot. We are of different opinions at different hours, but we may be always said to be at heart on the side of truth." "The stern old faiths have all pulverized. 'Tis a whole population of ladies and gentlemen in search of religions."

There is a want of good manners in speaking and writing thus on a subject which involves the deepest, the most secret, as well as the most intense feelings of mankind,—no matter what their specific theology may be. There is a hard, supercilious irreverence, which no man, under any pretext whatever, has the right to indulge. Mr. Emerson says, "A man bears beliefs as a tree bears apples."—"We are born believing." This is fantastic cynicism; not love of truth, nor any expression of philosophical doubt. There are some good detached observations here and there throughout the essay; but the whole tone is below the mark, and unworthy of the subject. The essay is flippant, and excessively conceited,—two sins which we suspect Mr. Emerson would repudiate more earnestly than a breach in any of the Commandments. He has a habit of grouping incongruous names together in a way that dislocates one's ideas of the fitness of things, and suggests an ill-arranged *ménu* of a dinner. He speaks of "the fame of Shakspeare, or of Voltaire, of Thomas à Kempis

or Buonaparte." His lists of things, whenever they occur, have an abruptness that is especially disagreeable. Mr. Emerson's scheme of the Religion of the Future does not commend itself to our understanding, nor induce us to wish to exchange our old lamps for his new one:—

"It (the new church founded on moral science) shall send man home to his central solitude, shame these social supplicating manners, and make him know that much of the time he must have himself for his friend. He shall expect no co-operation,—he shall walk with no companion. The nameless thought, the nameless power, the super-personal heart,—he shall repose alone on that. He needs only his own verdict. No good fame can help, no bad fame can hurt him. The laws are his consoling: the good laws themselves are alive; they know if we have kept them; they animate him with the leading of a great duty and an endless horizon. Honour and fortune exist to him who always recognizes the neighbourhood of the great: always feels himself in the presence of high causes."

To us the above, which is the culminating passage of the book,—"the crown and glory of our sphere,"—reads like pure and simple nonsense: we do not even pretend that we guess at what it means. In the last three essays—Considerations by the Way, on Beauty, and on Illusions,—there is here and there a sentence that might be quoted, but nothing that Mr. Emerson has not already said, and said better. The book leaves the reader "with the gods still sitting around him on their thrones—they alone with him there." What gods, we are not told; but it looks very much as if Mr. Emerson had at last been fairly driven back into the Greek Mythology, "the old substantial gods of wood and stone," whom for our own use we should prefer to Mr. Emerson's metaphysical figments.

Mr. Emerson's book is dogmatic, paradoxical, high-minded, and deals with confident assertions rather than with well-considered truths. It is very inferior to the first series of Essays by which Mr. Emerson became known in England. What is new in it is not good; and what is good is repetition. We judge Mr. Emerson by the standard he himself taught us to form of what might be expected: he has fallen short of it. This work is not worthy of him, nor is it good in itself. No father would give it to his son as a guide for his "Conduct of life."

The Principles and Practice of Vegetarian Cookery. By John Smith. (Simpkin & Co.)

THE season of the year invites the consideration of the subject of Cookery, and those of our friends who are doubting the propriety of the usual joint of beef or turkey at Christmas will do well to consult the pages of this vegetarian cookery-book. We may, however, inform them that we have turned over the pages of this volume in vain to discover anything like a *pièce de résistance* with which to substitute our usual Christmas dish. We have looked at the arrangements for a family dinner-party, and find the only thing that could be ventured on like an apology for our turkey or roast beef is—a "savoury pie." Although this is anything but a vegetarian dish, our readers shall judge of its merits as compared with our old English fare by a receipt:—"Onion and sage fritters cut small; mushrooms; hard boiled eggs, three; tapioca, two ounces; butter, one ounce." This is a specimen of the diet that vegetarians wish to put the world on. The use of flesh they regard as unnatural, unnecessary and injurious. The vegetarian doctrine is not new; and it is only wonderful that enough people who believe in it survive to patronize a cookery-book intended for their particular service. It should, however, be recollected that

modern vegetarianism is very different from the system introduced by its first promulgators. They believed in vegetables alone; but their degenerate successors have modified the doctrine into a disbelief in the necessity of flesh. They have turned from their first love, and have cast furtive glances on the distended udder of the cow, and seek to gratify their tastes with an easy conscience by concocting puddings with milk and butter, and fritters and omelettes with eggs and cheese. So degenerate have these latter-day vegetarians become, that we find on calculating the quantity of animal produce recommended in their diet that it actually exceeds the quantity of animal food tolerated in the diet of families of the omnivorous kind.

The question then no longer hinges upon whether animal food may be taken at all, or the righteousness of destroying animal life; for the question of eating eggs is not one of kind, but merely of degree; and the man who wantonly eats an egg that would become a young chicken, is surely as guilty as he who eats the young chicken itself. If there be no difference morally between the egg and the chicken, the question may be perhaps entertained physically as to whether there is any difference between milk and flesh. Taking the composition of milk, we find that in the hundred parts it contains 86 parts of water, 6 of flesh-forming and 8 of heat-giving matters. Now, the flesh of animals contains the very same substance; in fact, the flesh of the young of all mammalia is manufactured out of milk. Let us take veal and beef. Veal in one hundred parts contains 63 of water, 21 of flesh-forming and 16 of heat-giving substances. Beef contains less water, and more flesh-forming and heat-giving matter.

There is no difference of kind here; it is one of degree. The milk, with its more watery composition, is intended for the nutrition of the more watery tissues of the young; but the meat is adapted for the wants of the growing and strong man. Amongst the theories that have led men astray, there is none having less science for its foundation than this vegetarian fancy. So far from flesh having an injurious effect, it is well known that when taken in proper quantities it has the most beneficial effect upon the human system. Amongst those who have not the means of taking a proper quantity of animal food, a variety of diseases occur from under-nutrition, and there is no more ready means of curing such diseases than the supply of animal food. The flesh of animals is more readily digested and more speedily appropriated than the flesh-forming principles of plants; hence it is a necessity for those races of men who are strong in muscle and active of thought. The roast beef of Old England is no mere figure of speech; it represents the nutritious pabulum, out of which is manufactured the thews and sinews which do the work of life, and by which her sons have been so victorious in the arts of life and on the field of battle. We warn the public not to listen to the blandishments of stewed carrots and parsnips, fried cauliflowers and apple possets. These things may please the palate, they may fill the stomach, but they cannot supply the material of muscles and brains. There are some people amongst us who may neither work nor think; it may be immaterial to them in what form they supply the waste material of their existence, but for the men and the women who carry on the great work of our national and social life, it would be one of the most retrograde steps they could take to abandon the food which instinct and reason point out to them as the fittest material for the supply of the waste of their active lives.

Lives of the Archbishops of Canterbury. By Walter Farquhar Hook, D.D., Dean of Chichester. Vol. I. Anglo-Saxon Period. (Bentley.)

THE first portion of Dr. Hook's series of archiepiscopal biographies is in the hands of the public. If the grandeur of a drama may be conjectured from the quality of the opening symphony, we should feel inclined to anticipate, from this introductory volume, that English literature is about to receive an imperishable contribution, and that the Church will, in after times, rank among the fairest and the ablest of her historians the author of these 'Lives of the Archbishops of Canterbury.'

The work is not one which Dr. Hook has taken up in order to occupy the comparative leisure which has fallen to his lot, on his exchange from a labour of five-and-thirty years in a manufacturing district to the milder duties of a Sussex deanery. It is the fruit of a whole life's study. It was the thought of the author's earliest days. His materials were collected, during a period when he could only lay up, not yet employ them for the accomplishment of a vast achievement. In the days of his active and useful manhood, he arranged the foundations of his edifice. Meanwhile, his mind was engaged on the superstructure. Throughout his busy career, he never lost sight of his object; and now, as he says, in his "old age," he addresses himself to the completion of a task which will furnish us with what we have all along needed, an impartial History of the Church of England, written in a spirit which is far above the miserable controversies of her would-be historians, which renders justice to the bitterest controversialists, but which, in a tone melodious by the echoes of truth, holiness and affection, treats those several antagonists as brethren, whose arguments he may refute or support, and whose testimony he may admit or reject, as an enlightened sage might do among the pupils whom he loved. The introductory passages to this volume will secure for the author not alone a patient hearing, but, what is of wider importance, a conviction on the part of his audience that he who addresses them is no ordinary man, not one whose heart is only brain, but whose heart and head, feeling and judgment, are in unison, and to sit at whose feet and learn, is at once the greatest of pleasures and the most valued of privileges.

This volume includes the lives of the Archbishops of Canterbury, from the leader of the Italian mission, Augustine, A.D. 597, to Stigand, whose story is carried down to the year of his deprivation, 1070. The eventful chronicle of nearly 500 years is narrated with rare skill. Of course, the biographies of two-and-thirty prelates unfolded in 500 pages are "sketches"; but they are sketched by a master, who, with two or three strokes, is able to portray the living figure, and stamp it on the mind for ever. The narrator of these lives treats his heroes as men. There is nothing of the sickliness, the faint odour, the gaspings at affect, the ready acceptance of lying legends for truth, and the struggle to make miraculous what may be simple and easily accounted for,—nothing of the stage effect which disgraced the 'Lives of the English Saints.' Dr. Hook introduces us not to wizards, jugglers, and supernatural beings, whose every knot of difficulty there is a divinity at hand to undo or to cut. He portrays human beings, with great and good intentions,—some less great and less good than others; and, judging them from the light in which they themselves laboured, he points out the wisdom of their course, the far-sightedness of those who followed

it, and the inevitable consequences which ensued on certain causes. But he has an eye too for shortcomings; and a voice for the censure of them. If the greatest saint among these prelates is illogical or inconsequent, if he has a rivet loose in his armour, or fails to fight his fight as becomes him, then Dr. Hook, disdaining to find excuses for what is inexcusable, points to the offender, exposes his errors, clearly, yet generously, and draws a moral from them which one regrets the offenders themselves cannot profit by.

This volume of Anglo-Saxon history is complete in itself, from the period of Augustine and his followers, whose general honesty Dr. Hook admits, while attributing to natural causes what they regarded as indications of a supernatural intervention, to the time when perished Stigand, the last Anglo-Saxon Archbishop of Canterbury; when William conquered the territory, and Hildebrand subsequently subdued the Church, "but neither Kingcraft nor Priestcraft, though for a time triumphant, could finally annihilate the indomitable spirit of independence which, inherited from our Saxon ancestors, is the glory and characteristic of the English race."

The prominent figures in this introductory portion are Augustine himself, Cuthbert, Dunstan, Elphege, and Stigand,—of whom it is to be noticed that, although Dr. Hook remarks, "After the deposition of Archbishop Robert by the Witenagemot, Stigand was called upon to administer the See of Canterbury in conjunction with that of Winchester," yet Stigand does not appear ever to have been constituted the successor of Robert by any authority. He was, however, to all intents and purposes, Archbishop. Doctor Hook concludes that his translation was effected the year after his predecessor's deposition (1053), "as we find him appending his signature as Archbishop to a public document." On which we may venture to observe, that Stigand did not resign his bishopric of Winchester at all, being deprived of it in 1070, as well as of the See of Canterbury; when, at Winchester, he was succeeded by Walkeline—and, at Canterbury, by the Italian, Lanfranc.

To what extent the work will run, it is not for us to conjecture. There remain nearly sixty lives to be told, and many of these will demand large space, for none of them will bear to be narrated so succinctly as Walpole recounted those of Whitgift and Abbot, when he said, most feebly and falsely, that the two men "only ran a race of servility and adulation!" As we remember the names recorded on the great roll of prelates, we are the more impatient for the volumes to come,—though we can conjecture from the one before us how the writer will treat both the doves and the dragons, the sages and the sciolists,—for they were not all wise men. Then, there are curious histories of interregnums. Six times has Canterbury been without throne or Archbishop, for periods varying from one to sixteen years. The last, and longest, vacancy was from the day when Laud descended from that archiepiscopal throne, in 1644–5, to that when it was once more occupied, by Juxon, in 1660. In old days, Sees were sometimes kept vacant by rapacious ministers, who were wont to award them to the highest bidder. These details involve subjects of interest to every reader, as do those connected with the humble-minded men to whom the dignity was offered, and by whom it was promptly declined. All these matters, however, may be safely committed to the discretion of Dr. Hook; from whose hands we, nevertheless, await the portraiture of Anselm and ABecket, Baldwin and Langton, Reynolds and Islip, Cramer, Pole,

Parker and Abbott, and Laud, Sancroft and Tillotson,—and, with these, sketches, such as his cunning hand can limn, of men of peculiarities which render them interesting, if not attractive,—from Boniface, whose beauty caused English ladies to call him “the Absalom of Savoy,” to Archbishop Cornwallis, whose Sunday parties aroused the indignation of Lady Huntingdon, and, through her, called down censure on the doings at Lambeth, from the head of the Church himself—King George the Third!

We now proceed to select a few of the passages we have marked in the course of our study of this volume. The first shows Dr. Hook's view of Pope Gregory, who founded the Italian mission to England, and who introduced into the country the fashion of punning, as well as superadded the development of the faith which was already upheld by the Celtic Christian Church:—

“We find him only prevented from conducting the mission in his own person by an uproar of the people, to whom his merits as a statesman were known. But we should be doing him great injustice if we were to represent the great statesman of the age as a mere enthusiast hurrying into an important action, from the impulses of a heated imagination and a momentary excitement. The sight which moved his compassion and roused his indignation in the slave-market may have quickened his resolution; but the duty of establishing a mission to the English had long before attracted his attention and occupied his thoughts. And to the credit of Gregory, it must be recorded that the poor barbarians, in a remote corner of the earth, were not forgotten by him when, elevated to the see of Rome, this truly great man had to contend against difficulties before which an ordinary intellect and less moral courage would have quailed and retreated. When a plague was raging within the walls of the city, and famine was impending; when a schism disturbed the Church; when the Lombards threatened an attack on Rome, and the people, his *de facto* subjects, were calling upon him to enter into a treaty with the enemy that the safety of the Roman duchy might be secured; when the Emperor of the East, his *de jure* master, was requiring of him that he should not compromise the dignity of the Byzantine empire; and he had to adjust the machinery of a disorganized government to the exigencies of the times, such was the expansiveness of Gregory's mind and the largeness of his heart, that he never forgot the sad sight which had excited his compassion in the Roman Forum, never ceased to hear the appeal which had been made to him from Saxon Britain, ‘Come, and help us.’ His first plan was to purchase English slaves in foreign markets, to emancipate and educate them, and then to employ them in the conversion of their countrymen. To what circumstance the failure of this wise measure is to be attributed, we do not know. All that we do know is, that the measure finally adopted was that of organizing a mission of Italians, whose leader was Augustine. In appointing his mission, Gregory was guilty of an error in judgment, attributable in part to the character of the man, and in part to the spirit of the age. One of the errors of the age was an almost entire forgetfulness of the secondary causes employed in the providence of God; looking always to the First Great Cause, men expected a miraculous interference, and what they expected as a probability, they were eager to imagine as a fact. Gregory's notion was, that if he could secure men of vital religion and piety to undertake the mission, the work would be accomplished by the direct interposition of the Deity. The inconsistency is apparent, as it is always to be discovered where extreme views prevail. Either there ought to have been the employment of no human agency, and the whole work should have been a work of prayer; or else, if human agency were to be employed, the most efficient agents should have been selected. While all history speaks of the fervent piety, the self-denial and consistent moral conduct of the forty missionaries who were sent from Rome, we do not

discover amongst them a single man endowed with superior powers of mind, and we find them, in consequence, as a body, defective in moral courage.”

If these last words should startle susceptible minds, hitherto occupied in looking upon Augustine and his followers as men only a little lower than the angels, it may re-assure them to know that, at least, the author makes no statement that does not rest upon competent authority, or that he does not establish by incontestable proof. As for the early “miracles” of these men, to which so many persons have credulously lent ear, Dr. Hook does not hesitate to call them “Canterbury Tales.” On other occasions, he adds to the legend, “I do not vouch for the truth of this story, which is given on the very questionable authority of William of Malmesbury,”—another indication of the spirit in which the Dean of Chichester has worked.

The following view of England will be novel to many readers, who will, however, as readily accept it, as they will willingly praise the power of the artist:—

“Few persons seem to be aware of the amount of prosperity enjoyed by our ancestors after the fusion of the British and Anglo-Saxon races, and before the invasion of the Danes. Nearly the whole of the southern part of our island was at that time under cultivation; and William of Poitiers speaks of England, at a later period, as the storehouse of Ceres. Rye, barley, wheat, and oats were grown, and the orchards were prolific with cider. The grapes were acid, and the wine was coarse; but Smithfield, and Holborne were vineyards from which the cellars of London were filled, while the other provinces regaled on the vines of Gloucestershire and Essex. The hum of bees was heard in various parts of the country, and the whereabouts is indicated by the name of ‘Mells.’ Honey was a valuable article of produce and commerce, being manufactured into sugar and mead. There appears to have been a wild pony natural to the island, and English horses were in demand in the foreign markets. Although they were never much employed by the Anglo-Saxons in military service, we may presume that field sports required the maintenance of steeds, and fox-hunting was popular not only with the thanes, but, as we learn from Alcuin, with the clergy and monks of Northumbria. The population of the country being small, there were still in existence large hunting-fields, from which the wild animals paid tribute to the tables of the luxurious, while, beneath forests of oak and beech, the serfs and slaves were watching the swine which formed the animal food of the masses. In the plains were herds of cattle to supply the large demand for leather, when leather was required not only for shoes and breeches, but for gloves, with which even the common people were obliged to cover their hands before they ventured to penetrate the thick entangled wood. Eels, in abundance, supplied the midland districts, and fisheries were established on all the coasts. On the coast resided the merchants, whose social position was as high as it is at the present time. The successful trader had a right to the rank and privileges of a thane, and the laws made for the encouragement of commerce show how highly commerce was esteemed. The basis of all our improvements in the manufacturing districts at the present time is iron. Whenever a manufacturer or a mechanic gets an idea into his head, he goes to the implement-maker to help him to carry it out. And even in the Anglo-Saxon times, though for a different reason, iron was the basis of our wealth. It was an age when every man's hand was against his brother; when all Europe was one vast battle-field; when in the most retired district none but an ecclesiastic, and in many districts not even he, could go unarmed. Swords, battle-axes, halberds, javelins, spears, arrow-heads, all kinds of missile weapons, in addition to defensive armour, head-pieces, greaves, and shields, were everywhere in demand, and the possession of iron was better than the possession of gold. There can be little doubt that it was this, in addition to the sur-

face gold, that rendered Britain such a valuable colony of ancient Rome. Pennant, in his History of Wales, adduces authentic evidence to prove that the Romans established ironworks in the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire. Iron foundries existed also in Sussex and Kent at a very early period. The ironworks in the northern and midland counties were not opened until centuries after these had been in operation. The ironworks in Sussex were not abandoned till 1776, and then not from want of ore, of which we still possess an ample supply, and of superior quality; but because, in the expense of smelting it, it was impossible to compete with the coal-fields in the north. In the counties of Sussex and Kent, timber or wood was almost indigenous, and hence in the Anglo-Saxon times, when wood alone was employed in furnaces, the value of coal being scarcely known, the southern counties were what the mining districts of the north have subsequently become. To these sources of wealth must be added the plentiful supply of flint; flint being employed, instead of iron, in many of the missiles of war, though requiring the use of iron to shape and point it.”

The descent from prosperity was as rapid as the rise to it among the Anglo-Saxons. The evil days are thus reproduced by the historian:—

“In our allusions to the courts of Ethelbald and Offa, we have seen the decay of morals among public men; and the evil example set by the great was the more injurious, from the conformity of the royal criminals to the church, and the readiness evinced by worldly ecclesiastics to account their benefactions as compensating for their crimes. From the court, corruption descended to the monasteries. It had been the wisdom of Theodorus to convert the chief monasteries into schools of learning, and these institutions were, for a season, a blessing to the land; but when zeal for learning declined, they became very much what the colleges would be in our present universities, if they were no longer places of education. From the beginning, the monasteries of England had with few exceptions been free, and in their corruption they became lax. With laymen chiefly for their abbots, they became at first agreeable country-houses, replete with all the appliances of learning and pleasure, but afterwards they gradually degenerated into abodes of idleness and dissipation. Incentives to evil are sure to succeed rapidly on the removal of intellectual restraints or religious excitement. The demand for monastic reform was everywhere on the increase among that portion of the community which was still earnest in the cause of vital Christianity and the religion of the heart. It was first raised by Bede; it was repeated by Alcuin; it was urged in the time of Wulfred; but among the evils of the time, the inactivity of the primate, and, in consequence, of his suffragans, was one of the greatest. We do not indeed find complaints made of the rapacity and injustice of the English prelates,—charges brought against the French hierarchy in its dealings with monastic institutions,—but there was a carelessness and negligence in enforcing the regulations enacted with a view to reform, from time to time, at the provincial councils. Religion itself was emasculated, as we gather from the popular legends; and instead of forming that manliness of character which nerves the true Christian to acts of noble daring, superstition brought down the once high-spirited Saxons to a condition of imbecility which would have incapacitated the English race from becoming what we see it to be, if the arm had not been nerved to resist the horrors of a foreign invasion, and if new blood had not been infused into the veins by the fusion of Danes with Anglo-Saxons, through a peaceful process, to which we shall have frequent occasion to refer. But that degeneracy in animal courage which rendered the demoralized Anglo-Saxon an easy prey to the Dane led, nevertheless, to one great result. The incapacity of the rulers and the effeminacy of the people enabled the noble few, under the leading of a clear-sighted, energetic, and generous prince, to bring the discordant elements of the Heptarchy into harmony and order,

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and in the King of Wessex to establish a monarchy in England."

The above extracts will, doubtless, recommend themselves, the book, and the author, to our readers. When completed, the work will, we sincerely hope, become not alone one for the library, either ecclesiastical or general, but a text-book wherein the young, otherwise well grounded, may read and remember what is the true history of our Church in England. If they discern therein some reasons why Calvin declared that Bishops were the pedestals on which the image of the Beast was erected, they will also learn to comprehend how Bishops have overthrown that image from the pedestal here in England. If there have been some unworthy men among them, who were unequal to the task they had undertaken, or which had been thrust upon them, there are on the illustrious roll some, nay, many, of the brightest names that ever made a nation glad with the message of good tidings. The reader may feel disgust at elections which were no less objectionable in their immediate results than the old system in Armagh, where, for fifteen generations, the primacy passed to the chief of the Sept by a sort of inheritance, but he will, if of generous nature, rejoice to find that, despite the evils of system, there arose heroic men well calculated to carry out their mission. The reader will learn, too, how hard it is for even the best-disposed and the most capable of teachers to instruct men who prefer instruction from less worthy hands. This difficulty has been of all times, and Pope referred to it, after his fashion, when he exclaimed—

Still break the benches, Henley, with thy strain,
While Sherlock, Hare, and Gibson preach in vain.

We close Dr. Hook's first volume with mingled feelings of gratefulness and pleasure. He has commenced a great work, for the completion of which we not only trust he will be spared, but hope he may enjoy for a long period the honour that it will reap for him, and witness throughout that time the benefits which a work so treated is likely to achieve for the Church, and society generally. Its tone of cheerful charity is, perhaps, not the least of its merits.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Woman and her Wants: Four Lectures to Ladies on the Female Body and its Clothing. By Madame Roxey Ann Caplin. (Darton & Co.)—This title is what the French would call *décevant*! It suggests impossibilities, and, as we all know,—

What's impossible cannot be,
And very seldom comes to pass.

What are women's wants? Who will undertake to give the catalogue? To count them up would require advanced powers of numeration. The poet declares that—

Man wants but little here below,
Nor wants that little long.

But woman wants a great deal, and she has had to wait it so long that the Millennium must come before there is a chance of her wants being fully attended to. Certainly her case is very much pressed on the attention of Providence just now by numerous friends, who undertake to plead her cause and set forth her necessities; of course, like all friends "who feel an interest in her case," they insist on knowing what she wants and what would be good for her a great deal better than she knows herself. Perhaps it is fortunate for her that the result does not rest with them. Madame Caplin's 'Four Lectures to Ladies on the Female Body and its Clothing' opens

—wilds immeasurably spread,
and milliners' bills "still lengthening as they go." But Madame Caplin is better than her title-page. The 'Four Lectures' in question are on so much Physiology as every woman ought imperatively to know for the benefit of herself and family.—"All that belongs to metaphysics or medicine

are," says the author, "excluded from consideration in these 'Lectures.' The broad facts of health and its attendant beauty form our only themes of discussion." Madame Caplin is a corset-maker by profession, and she had seen so much of the evil and suffering produced by tight-lacing and ill-constructed corsets, as well as by the total ignorance of women in general of every fact connected with the health and disease of their bodily structure, that she formed a Museum of Female Anatomy, which she demonstrated herself. The present 'Lectures' are four of those she delivered, specimens of the instruction she was in the habit of giving. These 'Lectures' are of the most simple and elementary kind,—no woman ought to be ignorant of the information they contain. The style is not winning, but they are marked by common sense; and if Madame Caplin has succeeded in teaching her hearers a few primeval facts, and if her hearers put their knowledge into practice, it will be a good instalment of improvement. On one point, however, we hold fast to our own heresy, that all "stays" are evil, disguise them as you will. Madame Caplin declares with authority, "that the corset cannot be dispensed with without inflicting serious injury on the female form, unless," adds she, "we are prepared to dispense with the European costume and adopt the Bloomer or the Oriental dress." We suppose Madame Caplin and women doomed to wear stays from the cradle will abide in their error; but we cannot believe them a necessity of Nature. We are convinced that all stays, whether with "busk opening in the middle" or with patent "buske mécanique," are a heavy tax to pay for civilized costume; and that they ought to be and will be abolished,—their evil is inherent and their supposed "use" a delusion.

Elements of Musical Science. By Robert Brown. (Hamilton, Adams & Co.)—We fail to see the necessity or value of this book. Such novelty as it contains is an attempt to simplify the notation long accepted by a universal use of the bass clef, which every singer, of course, is thereby obliged to read differently. This is even less sound than the universal use of the treble clef, which has been rejected, on good grounds, by all serious lovers of music. The grammar of an art cannot be perpetually made and re-made to suit the convenience or the idleness of smatterers. The useful pages in the volume are those containing the scales and modulations of C. P. Emanuel Bach.

A Chapter on Slavery: presenting a Sketch of its Origin and History, with the Reasons for its Permission, and the Probable Manner of its Removal. By the Rev. O. Prescott Hiller. (Hodson.)—It would appear from the publication of this hasty and superficial sketch of ancient and modern slavery, that the morbid appetite for scenes of cruelty, called into existence by the romantic exaggerations and extravagant misrepresentations of 'Uncle Tom's Cabin,' has not yet been quite extinguished in the United States. The foolish enthusiasm which here gained the better of common sense for a few days, and completely died out in a few months, has in America the pitch and faggots of party contention to keep it alive. The Rev. Mr. O. Prescott Hiller, however, has greatly miscalculated both his own powers and the state of feeling on this side the Atlantic, if he hopes to inflame us with the rancorous zeal of his shortsighted and narrow philanthropy. Floggings, anatomically described, are not to our taste, whether they be inflicted with birch or whip, cane or knout, on serfs in Russia or Negroes in the Southern States. We question whether, even amongst his own countrymen, Mr. Prescott will find many to applaud him for attempting to revive the discussion which was provoked by Mrs. Beecher Stowe's unwise book, and has resulted in nothing sweeter than painful recollections—in nothing more serviceable to humanity than a strong reaction against Negro Emancipation. As this world goes, a minister may find better, if not more profitable, work to his hand than political agitation.

A Garland of Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern, including some never before given in any collection. Edited, with Notes, by Joshua Sylvester. (Hotten.)—A good, seasonable book, very neatly printed, and keeping the promise of its title. Some

of the less familiar carols are quaint and pathetic. Is the art of making such things lost?

A Second Series of Curious Stories and Traditions of Scottish Life. By Alexander Leighton. (Edinburgh, Nimmo; London, Simpkin & Co.)—This is a collection of excellent short stories; and, as every one that has handled a pen must be aware, to make good short stories is not easy. On a few hints, notions, and gone-by anecdotes, Mr. Leighton, who confesses to the help of friends, has made up a book for the Christmas fireside, containing an amount of terror, mystery and adventure, within the compass of eight tales, hardly to be exceeded. The style may not be all that it should be,—who has a style now-a-days!—but we defy any one who loves a tale to sit down to any one of these, and not to be nailed to his chair till the "charm's wound up."

Legends from Fairy Land: narrating the History of Prince Glee and Princess Trill, &c., by Holme Lee. (Smith, Elder & Co.)—Every one concerned is hereby advised that here are two hundred and thirty-nine pages of right good fairy lore; and what is more, new as well as good. Perhaps, there is somewhat too much of ticketing characters after the fashion of good John Bunyan; but that which becomes a little tiresome to ourselves may be found charming, for aught we know, by those for whose delight the adventures of 'Prince Glee and Princess Trill' were designed.

Holidays with Hobgoblins; and Talk of Strange Things. By Dudley Costello. With Illustrations by George Cruikshank. (Hotten.)—In an unassuming form Mr. Dudley Costello presents the lovers of humour and learning with an excellent collection of marvellous stories and essays. The papers on 'Superstitions and Traditions,' 'Monsters,' 'Dragons, Griffins, and Salamanders,' 'Alchemy and Gunpowder,' 'Witchcraft and Old Bogy,'—have the fun of a dozen ordinary Christmas books,—and an abundance of that nook-and-corner information which is the charm of *Notes and Queries* and Hone's familiar volumes.

The Babes in the Basket; or, Daph and Her Charge. (Low & Co.)—Boys and girls, but more especially girls, will be well pleased with the story that tells how Daphne, the negress and faithful nurse, bears away Charlie and Louise from the murderous hands of insurgent slaves—and how the two children are eventually restored to their papa and mamma. But why did the author consign poor Daphne to a tranquil death immediately she saw her darlings once more in their parents' arms? Surely she ought to have lived on, to witness the happy consequences of her noble conduct, and to be protected in her honourable old age by Charlie and Louise.

Difficulties Overcome: Scenes in the Life of Alexander Wilson, the Ornithologist. By C. Lucy Brightwell. With an Illustration by Charles Keene. (Low & Co.)—This brief and not incorrect memoir of Alexander Wilson is compiled from previous biographic sketches of the Paisley weaver, who emigrated to America, and there became famous as an ornithologist. The author has not expended much labour on her task, but perhaps as much as such a work deserves.

The Nursery Playmate. Illustrated with more than Two Hundred Engravings. (Low & Co.)—An admirable collection of lullaby and sing-song that will be of service to mamma or nurse, endeavouring to recall another of "those old rhymes" from the memories of distant childhood. Some of the illustrations are as familiar to us as the jingle to which they refer;—and if we wished to be exact we should object to the readings the editor has given of many important passages. For instance, we are in a position to prove, by our Aunt Maria's celebrated folio MSS. that, while the king was in the counting-house, counting out his money, the queen partook of bread and honey in the "parlour," and not the pantry, as the present edition represents. But of these and similar *errata* we care not to speak severely. A work that is at the same time a good song-book and a good picture-book for the nursery, mitigates the sternness of criticism.

The Autobiography of Frank: the Happiest Little Dog that ever Lived. By the Author of 'The

Gipsy's Daughter. (Darton & Co.)—Frank is a very worthy little dog, rather too fond of hearing his own bark, but still barking out a great deal of honest thought, healthy sentiment, and humorous observation, which it would be a thousand pities to have kept buried in the silent depths of his canine breast. As a thorough, gentle dog, and no puppy, accustomed to move in the best society, and qualified to hold his own with royal lap-dogs of the highest degree,—we commend him to the good-will of papas with pockets full of crown-pieces. Frank's portrait at the opening of the volume is very cleverly managed, and reflects great credit on the artist.

The Golden Dream; or, Adventures in the Far West. By R. M. Ballantyne. With Illustrations. (Shaw & Co.)—Schoolboys will not think the worse of their old friend Mr. Ballantyne for this new attempt to give them pleasure. Ned Sinton, the hero of 'The Golden Dream,' goes to California, smitten with the love of gold. How he fares there, amongst diggers and ruffians, it is not our intention to tell. Let the curious find out for themselves all that our author is ready to tell them, with much spirit and some little humour.

The Boy's Own Book of Boats: including Vessels of every Rig and Size to be found Floating on the Waters in all Parts of the World. By W. H. G. Kingston. With numerous illustrations, drawn by Edwin Weedon, engraved by W. J. Linton. (Low & Co.)—Boys who combine a strong taste for mechanics with a passion for nautical pursuits, will like this well-written and well-wrought book. Good as it is, however, we cannot recommend it for the common run of boys. It abounds too much in technicalities to be generally amusing; and no attempt has been made to season the dry matter with touches of picturesque narrative. It is to be regretted that Mr. Kingston has not taken the same pains to amuse that he has to instruct, since we are of opinion that he is well calculated to do both the one and the other. The illustrations are excellent.

A Nation's Manhood; or, Stories of Washington and the American War of Independence. By the Author of 'Sunlight through the Mist,' &c. (Shaw & Co.)—This fruitless attempt to dish up the story of Washington's life, with cries of "Oh, Mamma!" and "Oh, Aunt!" into a child's tale, is the sorriest effort of catchpenny book-making that the present flood of Christmas gift-books has brought our way. Even if the incidents of Washington's career admitted of such treatment, the author lacks the knowledge of human nature and of history requisite for the task. His acquaintance with Washington and past American politics is as superficial as his ignorance of all that relates to the juvenile mind is complete.

Fairy Footsteps; or, Lessons from Legends. With 100 illustrations designed by Alfred Crowquill. (Lea.)—The occupants of fairy-land have left no traces here. The jagged edge of the hobnailed boot, and the twist of the opera-dancer's toe, have injured the smooth verdure of the grass plot; but we look in vain for the flowers that spring up under the tripping feet, light and musical as Zephyr's flutter, of Queen Mab and her maids of honour. Still, all praise is due to the 100 illustrations by Alfred Crowquill. The volume will be a favourite with children who like "a book with lots of good pictures."

What Uncle told Us. With Coloured Illustrations by Alfred Crowquill. (Lea.)—If the pen that wrote 'What Uncle told Us' equalled in power the pencil that illustrated it, a great contribution would have been made to the jollity of our next Christmas holidays. The pictures are capital, but the stories contain too much preach-ee, preach-ee. To No. 4, 'Intemperance; or, the Prince and the Water-Fay,' grave objections might be raised. Surely there is no need to flood the nursery with teetotal literature. What do boys and girls, whose papas and mammas are likely to buy story-books for their amusement, know of drunkenness, that they should be admonished of the awful consequences of "the bottle"? Oh! Mr. Moralist, say what hard things you will of gin, whisky, rum and brandy, but leave to our little ones their modicum of orange-wine and the

snap-dragons of Christmas-Eve. Above all, do not familiarize our babes with visions of debauchery, polluting their young minds with revelations of unimagined vice, which, if they can only be protected from evil instructors, they may even to the end of life be ignorant of. Be assured, that if pernicious zeal should inspire you to a repetition of the offence, English parents will, without parley, show you—the nursery-door. What is sound morality in the tavern-parlour, is defilement in the children's play-room.

The Lord's Prayer Explained to Children. With a Preface by the Rev. J. M. Bellevue. (Kent & Co.)—Clearly the production of a lady with a passion for sermonizing at ragged schools. On the clause, "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven," she commences her exposition with, "This is the highest aspiration of human prayer; it includes all prayer." Quite true, Madam; but if you address such words to little children, they will be sorely puzzled as to the signification of "highest aspirations," and want you to explain your explanation.

Among other Christmas books for "the small people," which the tall ones will be tempted to appropriate, is an illustrated new edition of *Andersen's Tales for Children* (Bell & Daldy). The translation is by Mr. Alfred Wehnert; the pictures, one hundred and five in number, and of various quality, are after drawings "by Mr. E. Wehnert, Thomas and others."—*The Amusing Adventures of Mr. Simon Snuff-Box*, by Master Charles Wilson, et al. Fourteen, (Simpkin & Co.) is a merry little tale, with a merry frontispiece devised by its boy-author. If "the child be father to the man," the son of him who wrote 'Mr. Simon Snuff-Box,' may cut a conspicuous figure in the world of letters; for, let it be remembered, no one can write good humorous comedy who has not likewise within him a vein of earnest seriousness.—*Fancy Tales from the German*, by J. S. Laurie, illustrated by H. Sanderson, (Low & Co.) are nine stories by Arnold, Beckstein and Strapola (is the last name right?)—handsomely printed, and not ill decked with pictures. The tales are as wildly fantastic as so many pantomime introductions. In some of them it is impossible to avoid implicitly believing,—a sure sign that they are well told.

Among pamphlets of an educational nature we may mention—*Thoughts on Education*, by a Schoolmistress (Chillicoit);—*Education in India: a Letter from the Ex-Principal of an Indian Government College to his appointed Successor*, by E. Arnold;—*University Certificate Examinations, with Suggestions for a Scheme in Scotland similar to the "Middle Class Examinations,"* by W. S. Dalgleish (Gordon);—*A Brief Dissertation on Hieroglyphic Letters*, by Dr. Simonides (Nutt);—*Introductory Lecture delivered at the Opening of the Evening Classes of King's College*, by A. Mariette (Williams & Norgate); to these we may add *Proposed Emendations of the Text of Shakespeare's Plays*, by S. Jervis (Longman);—*Gabriel de Mirabeau; or, Riquette, the Revolution King*, by H. Keeble (Evans);—*An Essay on the Thermo-Dynamics of Elastic Fluids*, by J. Gill (Weale);—*Lepidopterist's Indicator*, by B. B. Rockett (Newman);—*The Position and Prospects of Physical Science*, by P. G. Tait (Edmonston & Douglas);—*Sir D. Brewster's Introductory Address at the Edinburgh University* (Edmonston & Douglas);—*Charities: Suggestions as to their Accounts*, by J. Waddell (Nisbet); and Parts I. to III. of Colonel Shafter Adair's *Addresses on Works of National Defence, delivered at the United Service Institution, consisting of The Militia of the United Kingdom, The Organization and Duties of the Militia, and The Defence of London*.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Ashwell's The Schoolmaster's Studies, Two Addresses, 8s. 8vo. 2s. Autobiography of Frank, the Happiest Little Dog, 8s. 8vo. 2s. 6d. Babes in the Wood, Ten Drawings by a Lady, imp. 16mo. 5s. 6d. Baptist Chapel, Norwich, Attorney-Gen. v. Gould, 8vo. 2s. 6d. Bally's Turf Guide, Winter Edit. 1860, 18mo. 2s. 6d. 4s. 6d. Barney's The Star in the East, Mission Work in N. India, 3s. 6d. Bible of Every Land, new edit. enlarged 4to. 42s. half-mor. Bickersteth's Rev. E. Family Prayers for Six Weeks, n. ed. 3s. 6d. Bishop's Daughter in the Eleventh Century, 8s. 8vo. 2s. 6d. Blakie's David, King of Israel, 2nd edit. 8s. 8vo. 2s. 6d. Books for the Country, 'Burn's Hints for Farmers,' 1s. 12s. 6d. Bree's Birds of Europe not observed in the British Isles, 17s. 6d. Brookdale, or, the Consola, 18mo. 1s. 6d. Buckley's Serenaders' New Songs, edit. by Wade, 8vo. 2s. 4to. 1s. Burke (Edmund), Life and Times of, by Macknight, Vol. 3, 20s. Burke's Vicissitudes of Families, &c., 1st Series, 5th edit. 12s. 6d.

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THE DANTE FESTIVAL AT FLORENCE.

Newington Butts, Dec. 3, 1860.

It was with supreme satisfaction that I read in the *Athenæum*, in the letter of your graceful correspondent "Th. T.," to whom all we in England who in these stirring times have been condemned to live at home at ease, cannot be too thankful, that it is the intention of the Italians to carry out at Florence the proposition which was first made in the *Athenæum* two years ago (Dec. 25th, 1858) for holding a grand National Festival in honour of Dante Alighieri, in May, 1865, the sixth centenary commemoration of the poet's birth.

When that proposal was made the prospects of Italy were very gloomy, but now how changed! The day-star has shone out,

Che mena dritto altrui per ogni calle,
the *Lion* hath cast her speckled skin, the *Lion* has lain down in his lair, and the *Lupa* has been driven to its last gasp in *vincula mortis*.

It is to be hoped that our friends on setting up the statue of Dante will not take a profane liberty with the poet's name, and defraud it of an /l/ Whatever may be set up in the titles of books, let not the pedestal bear perpetual witness against them, but be the poet's name spelt as he himself spelled it.

Permit me to say a few words on the proposed

National great and over the text to be perence the 'Div' lated, forth in codici the well know the readi In the Croce C Visconti Templan of Buti No. 125, In the No. xxix Buti. I and also Alessand Codice S is also Tommas well, and On this c be render Dante. Let m mean. I versions c into the of opinion

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National edition of the poet's works. This is a great and serious matter; and let the editors, whoever they may be, bear in mind that the world will expect that it shall be worthy of the occasion. The text of the 'Divina Commedia' still remains to be perfected. In the public libraries of Florence there are more than one hundred codici of the 'Divina Commedia'; let these be carefully collated, and let us have the numerical result set forth in places of doubtful reading. Among these codici there are some ten or a dozen which are well known, and that have a high reputation: let the readings of these be recorded.

In the Library of St. Lorenzo we have the Santa Croce Codice, sometimes called of Villani—the Visconti Codice—the Tempiano maggiore, and the Tempiano minore—the Codice of the Badia, detto del Buti—also the Codice Gaddi, Plut. xc. sup. No. 125, a very important one.

In the Magliabechiana there is the Codice No. xxix. (cl. vii. No. 1232), with the comment of Buti. In the Riccardiana the Codice No. 1005, and also that of Nos. 1006, 1007, 1008, which Alessandro Torri considered preferable to the Codice Sta. Croce, and the Magliabechiano. There is also the Codice No. 1025, highly esteemed by Tommaseo. I know these precious manuscripts well, and can therefore vouch for their merits. On this occasion it is expected that a service will be rendered to literature, as well as all honour to Dante.

Let me illustrate by an example or two what I mean. In some places we find in MSS. only two versions of a reading, in others several. Thus in canto the 2nd, 'Inferno,' v. 60, there is a difference of opinion whether we ought to read

E durera quanto il mondo lontana,

or—

E durera quanto il moto lontana.

Of late years in printed texts the latter has been preferred, but in the earlier printed editions it was the former. A careful examination of one hundred and twenty-three codici gave me—for *mondo* 68, for *moto* 55, MSS. Another instance, in which modern taste is at variance with the ancient practice in a still more remarkable manner, is shown in the 4th 'Inferno,' v. 36,

Ch' è parte della fede che tu credi,

or—

Ch' è porta della fede che tu credi.

The latter is the modern reading following the 'Accademici della Crusca,' and approved by the four Florentine editors of the edition of 1837; yet in one hundred and twenty-two codici examined by me, including the more important ones in Florence, Rome, Paris and London, not one was found that had it. One hundred and twenty-one read *parte*, and the exceptional codex had *porta*, a much better reading than "porta," and more poetical: baptism being regarded as the port of salvation for perishing souls. As an example of several versions of a reading, I may notice the 4th verse of the 1st Canto of the 'Inferno,' now usually printed

Ahi! quanto a dire qual era è cosa dura,

and deemed very much better than E, or any other form; yet it was not so formerly, as the early printed editions show and the MSS. Of ninety codici examined on this place, fifty-four had "Ei quanto," thirteen "E quanto," the others had an imperforated form of which there were no less than nine varieties:—Ahi! Ha! Hai! Ai! Ah! A! Aj! Hai! H! So that of twenty-three votes the favoured form came in for only four. These remarks are sufficient to show the present state and prospects of the text of the 'Divina Commedia.'

H. C. BARLOW, M.D.

CHANGES OF CLIMATE.

Fairport, Wrotham, Dec. 10, 1860.

THE reply of Prof. Airy to my query of the effects, in reference to tropical changes, of the influences which produce Precession and Nutation, does not, to my great regret, clear up the obscurity which clings to all scientific explanations of the same phenomena.

Prof. Airy has very ably shown (and let me thank him at the same time for his attention, and the result of latest observations) that there are two

kinds of oscillations affecting the globe we inhabit: oscillations of the earth's axis of rotation, and oscillations of the earth's orbit of revolution; both occasioned by causes which, after long intervals, very nearly neutralize each other. So far most of us, who have already read and profited by the treatises of the Astronomer Royal, are quite prepared to follow him. We hesitate only when he asks us to believe that these oscillations, complicated and numerous as they are, and every one of which must increase or diminish, for the time being, the angle of obliquity at which the sun's rays strike particular parts of the earth, have no serious connexion with those extreme changes of climate, or, otherwise, changes of tropical latitude, to the reality of which the science of Geology, and, to some extent, the testimony (indirect) of other astronomers, bear witness.

Taking his important admission, that "the two tropics are at present approaching the Equator at the rate of 45 feet annually" (a slow rate, certainly), I compare it with the statement in Ferguson's 'Astronomy' that, "in 12,960 years London will be 84° beyond the Polar Star, and the present position of the Equator will then be changed into the tropic of Cancer, and the tropic of Cancer into the tropic of Capricorn." I look also at the evidence given by Sir John Herschel to the effect that as late as only 4,000 years ago, our present pole star, now visible from within the inclined entrance passage of the Great Pyramid, at Gizeh, could not have been seen from the same point, because "at that epoch, a *Ursa Minoris* was 23°, more or less, in arc from the then pole of the heavens (a *Draconis*), and of course, at its lower culmination, was only 7° above the horizon of Gizeh" (Vyse's 'Pyramids,' ii. 108):—a fact which implies (as every midshipman knows, who on his voyage out and home has watched the Northern stars as he crosses the Line) that Gizeh in Egypt, in the year B.C. 2123 (the supposed date of the Great Pyramid) stood much nearer the Equator of the tropics than at the present moment.

May there not be something in the laws of Precession to reconcile these facts? I think there is; and that the difficulty is to be solved upon the hypothesis, that Precessional longitudes and latitudes follow unequal rates of acceleration. I say hypothesis; but I believe from the form of the globe and its known positions, a sound mathematical rule could be given for such differences of acceleration; the discussion of which, however, in your columns would doubtless involve too much of technical explanation for the patience of your readers. Suffice it, therefore, that in now taking my leave of them, I state briefly the result of my present deductions, not from speculative data, but Newtonian principles.

It is:—That there are two periods of a Precessional cycle (at one of which we have arrived), during which the variations of tropical latitudes are, for some centuries, as insignificant as they are now described to be by Prof. Airy; but that during the full course of such a cycle (say of 24,000 years), there occurs an extreme variation of 47°; or of from 23½° north to 23½° south; sufficient to have once placed the range of chalk-hills in Kent, on which I am now writing, within five degrees of the Line; or, what is the same thing, to have brought the true Line of the tropics within 5° of the Southern coast of England. Admit this, and we have an adequate cause for the great changes revealed by Geology: the shifting of the ice of the polar basins, the rise and fall of ocean levels, and consequent and commensurate alterations of land levels; of all of which something like a chronological history may one day be written.

Permit me to add a suggestion in reference to the interesting communications you have received from Admiral FitzRoy. It is, that between the force of gravitation and the force *lumière et thermique*, there is a close connexion. If a glass of water be exposed to the sun's rays, in the height of summer, it will speedily disappear in vapour; and it will equally disappear in the shade, if placed within the exhausted receiver of an air-pump; showing that, if the pressure of the atmosphere were removed from the earth, the ocean itself would fly off in vapour, to form a new, but more aqueous, atmo-

sphere over a dry globe. Here, then, is a reason why the moon's influence over weather (great as it must be, unless we give up the laws of gravitation) is not clearly traceable in the fluctuations of the barometer at all seasons; and a reason also why it is not traceable in the movement of the tides in all latitudes. When the ocean rises in vapour, from the combined effects of gravitation and radiation, there must be less visible tidal flow, and less variation of atmospheric pressure on a column of mercury.

W. E. HICKSON.

P.S.—It is important to notice that the oscillations of an axis, however considerable on the circumference of a circle, are *nil* at the centre; and that it is to the earth's centre, as the point of calculation, that astronomers refer when they tell us that our globe travels steadily along the same plane, with little or no divergence from the original orbit of revolution.

IRISH CRANNOGES AND SWISS PFÄHLBANTEN.

Dublin, Dec. 6, 1860.

THE subject of the "Ancient Lake Habitations" discovered in Ireland, Scotland and certain parts of Switzerland and Savoy, has attracted so much attention during the last two years, both in Great Britain and on the Continent, that I do not think the original describer of these structures need offer any apology for requesting the insertion of a few lines in the *Athenæum*. So long as these Crannoges, or fortified islands, were only known to exist in Ireland, and described in the *Proceedings* of the Royal Irish Academy, the subject received little attention from the public; but as soon as Dr. Keller wrote his account of some such structures discovered in Switzerland, after the very dry winter of 1853-54, it became a topic of popular notoriety, and various periodicals published articles thereon. Although Dr. Keller, in all his writings upon *Pfählbanten*, fairly acknowledges his obligations to myself and the publications of the Royal Irish Academy, neither the writer in the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, nor Mr. Cull, whose letter appeared in your number for the 1st instant, distinctly puts forward the fact that the first Crannoge discovered in Ireland was that near Dunshaughlin, county Meath, which was opened in the end of the year 1839; and that I brought under the notice of the Academy, upon the 27th of April 1840, all the circumstances connected therewith, and exhibited a large quantity of the bones and antiquities found therein, the account of which was printed in the *Proceedings* of the Academy for that year. Since then, as many as fifty-six Crannoges have been discovered in Ireland, and have been described by myself and others. The Museum of the Royal Irish Academy abounds in antiquities discovered in these structures, as shall be described in the forthcoming parts of the Catalogue of that Institution. The last notice of Irish Crannoges will be found in the *Proceedings* of the Academy for the 11th of April 1859, when Dr. Reeves and myself recorded the localities of no less than ten. Since then I have heard of others, which in process of time I hope to visit; but during the past summer I made an examination of two, of apparently great age, and connected with local popular traditions in so remarkable a manner that I think them worthy of being here recorded. In the beautiful lake of Derravarra, county Westmeath, so well known to all followers of the green-drake, and so much frequented every June, there are remains of a Crannoge about three or four feet under summer-water, near what is called the Port, — on the Donore shore. The stones of this Crannoge, evidently arranged by the hand of man, are placed in a circle, and the place itself is called "The Castle." Once upon a time—as the legend goes, and as Jack Nally, or any of the boatmen so admirably portrayed by Erskine Nicol, will relate—a fisherman and his son went out to spear eels; when a terrible storm arose, and the waves threatened to leap into the boat. "Strike," says the father, who managed the oars, "strike you, spear, my son, into the ninth wave that rises upon us, or we are lost." With unerring aim, the son plunged his sharp trident into the rising billow, "when, in the turn of your eye,

it was whipped out of his hand; but the storm ceased, the waves subsided, and the men returned to their cottage beside the shore. Not long after, while drying themselves by the fire, a strange man came in and beckoned the son to follow him. They entered the boat and passed over to "The Castle," where the usual scenery, paraphernalia and phraseology common to Irish fairy-lore commences in the narration, but which, having been so frequently described by myself and others, it is here unnecessary to detail. The young man was finally led into the presence of a lady, who, it appears, was the mistress of the waves, and from whose hand he alone could extract the spear. Towards the upper and wooded end of the beautiful Lake of Kylesmore, I had long heard of the existence of a "sunk island," but was unable to visit it until last summer, when I found all the remains of a large Crannog of what would have been, in any other year but this, about three feet below the summer level. The folks-lore attaching to this island is,—that it rises every night, and "if any one were to land upon it with fire and salt, it never could go down again," thus evidently pointing to its original habitation. It would be interesting to collect the legends relating to Crannogs, both in this country and in Scotland, where they are now in process of investigation. The great bulk of those discovered in Ireland were inhabited in comparatively modern times, although the earliest notices of them extend back to the beginning of the ninth century.

W. R. WILDE.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Munich, Dec. 6, 1860.

A ludicrous question is just now being ventilated, as provincial papers say, in Munich. You remember the agitation of six or seven years back against Temple Bar. This is an agitation against the Karlsthor, an old, inconvenient gate, with neither the architectural merits nor the associations of Temple Bar; but the agitation is carried on differently in Munich. In London people expressed their opinions by means of letters to the *Times*: here they write a small piece of verse, and put it as an advertisement into the *Neueste Nachrichten*. This paper is the oracle of Munich, a small, infamously printed, unedited sheet, the advertisements of which might furnish materials for comedy and domestic tragedy. For the last twenty days, at least one copy of verses has appeared daily on the Karlsthor; some days there have been three together. I cut out the first few of these as specimens, but they are untranslatable. Fancy putting such prose as these samples into rhyme! "O Karlsthor, thou dissonance in the harmony of Munich, thou discord in the splendour of the capital, wilt thou never be gone?"—"I come hither from strange lands, where there are ruins as well, yet I say on my honour they are all finer."—"Ye Munichers are for once presumptuous—ye cry in a strong full chorus, as if possessed—'Down with the Karlsthor.' Perhaps, it would suit ye to knock down the walls; only set your lungs to it, and it will soon be done."—"Karlsthor, Karlsthor, thou seemest so pitiable to me; only a fool (*Thor*, in German) wished to wash a moor white. Therefore, poor Karlsthor, seemest thou ever pitiable." Perhaps the most sensible effusion is the following:—"Why do you bother about the Karlsthor? let it stand. You had better occupy yourself with the beer; it would then be free of slime." One poet discovers, and communicates the fact in Bavarian patois, that "a lord" is so much pleased with the Karlsthor, that he means to build one just like it "a home," meaning at home. Another has a beatific vision of the state of Munich without the gate. One says that Amor and Psyche stand in astonishment, and ask who has made this ruin (alluding to the fall of the tower that belonged to the gate); to whom a philosopher replies, "That is a work of the dark night." At last a poetic trombone discovers that if he could do to the Karlsthor as Joshua's trumpet did to Jericho, the eyesore of Munich would soon vanish.

Can you conceive a similar means of "ventilation" applied to English questions? If Paterfamilias were reduced to state his grievances in four lines of

verse, and insert them as an advertisement,—if the thirsty soul had to rhyme upon beer, and the Hertfordshire Incumbent emulated Tate and Brady,—if Lord S. G. O. and Mr. G. H. M. inculcated uprightness and *gourmandise* in didactic strains,—there would be a revolution in our press; England would no more be called unpoetical, and our poets might go into third, fourth, or even tenth editions, like Messrs. Lingg and Bodenstedt, poets in Munich.

M. Vitet, de l'Académie Française, has lately published an article 'On the Early Flemish Painters,' in the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, in which he pleases himself to deny the genuineness of all the pictures by Hemling in this gallery. He only allows those at Bruges and one in France. After denying those in the Louvre, of course he could not grant any to the various public galleries of Europe; but after his attack on them, and especially on those here, it is pitiable to see his reasons for admitting his discovery in France. The absolute identity of the face of the Virgin in this picture with the face of the Virgin at Bruges is hardly so satisfactory a proof of genuineness as the general power and effect of a picture, for it is easier to copy literally what exists than to depart from the known style without a diminution of power. Messrs. Crowe & Cavalcaselle in their work 'On the Early Flemish Painters,' give Hemling one picture in the Pinacothek of Munich, but they do not mention the finest one, the triptych of St. Christopher, save in a casual note, where they assign it to another pupil of Van der Weyden. But M. Vitet says of the Hemlings here: "In Munich certain critics, not less intelligent than obliging, wishing to reconcile the statements of the catalogue with their recollections of Bruges, have been reduced to suppose that two Hemlings must have existed with such entirely different styles and talents, that the painter of the Munich pictures and the painter of the hospital at Bruges, had nothing in common but the name." It is the first time I ever heard this theory.

E. W.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE 'Personal History of Lord Bacon' will be published by Mr. Murray on Monday next.

The President of the Royal Society has appointed the following gentlemen Vice-Presidents for the ensuing year:—General Sabine, Sir John Boileau, Bart., Thomas Graham, Esq. and Sir Henry Holland, Bart.

There is preserved at the Lord Chamberlain's Office a small folio volume, written about the year 1639, containing a great deal of curious information respecting masques and old English plays, performed before the Court. There is no notice of Shakspeare in it; but there are very curious scraps about Ben Jonson, Inigo Jones, and other illustrious characters. Now this volume is of no earthly use where it is, but it would be a very desirable acquisition to the British Museum; and we cannot help thinking that if the matter were properly represented to the Court, there would be a disposition to present the volume to the national library. Should the transfer take place, it is not improbable that much new and important information, especially respecting Inigo Jones, would be accessible to the public.

Mr. Norman Robert Pogson has been appointed Astronomer at the Madras Presidency.

The Annual General Meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers will be held on Tuesday next, the 18th, when the Annual Report will be read, and the ballot for the President, Vice-Presidents, and other Members of Council will take place.

Prof. Hunt, speaking in our pages last week of the new edition of 'Ure's Dictionary,' says—"It will be inferred from your notice that the article on 'Mines and Mining' have received, in this edition, but slight modification." This might not only be inferred from our notice, but is absolutely confirmed by the objector, who adds, "Mining was modified by myself, and I am answerable for all omissions." We are therefore at issue upon this fact, that this article is merely a modification of the old, and, we should add, a very slight modification—how slight may be seen from inspection, and again inferred from Mr. Hunt's own words, for on

the tenth page of this article he says, "The descriptions given by Dr. Ure relate chiefly to the processes carried forward in the German mines." This is simply a corroboration of our own words—"We find Dr. Ure's old borrowings from foreign works, woodcuts of the timbering in German mines," &c. Any one can glance at the two editions and in a moment observe that the woodcuts are the same, with very few additions. We said further, that the Atlas to Villo-Fosse's great book was often the Doctor's copybook. This also is visible enough upon comparison; and in cut 1213, instead of the interior of a British mine, stands the well-known "General View of Mining Operations as given in Villo-Fosse's 'Sur la Richesse Minérale.'" In looking through the thirty-eight pages upon 'Mining and Mining for Coal,' containing some sixty-five cuts, we do not observe as many as ten that are not familiar to us in the old edition. A precise reckoning would, we believe, show less than ten, and those minor ones. One word only on the shorter article 'Mines.' We have no concern with its initials and their representative. That Mr. Hunt should have affirmed that it "was written for this edition," and that it is complete, has not a little astonished us. The least unpleasant and most concise reply to this affirmation will be the renewal of our expressed opinions. We find additional reasons for repeating the whole: "Undoubtedly the entire article [on 'Mines and Mining'] should have been re-written. As the work now stands, we fear its weakest part is that relating to British mining." And we further particularly referred to material deficiencies, which Mr. Hunt has not noticed.

A course of four lectures is in progress of delivery at the Society of Arts, under the auspices of the International Decimal Association. On Thursday last, Mr. Frank P. Fellows gave the first of this series. Mr. J. P. Hennessy, Mr. R. G. Williams, and Mr. James Yates are to follow in succession.

Mr. Smiles writes in answer to the complaints of Mr. Bailey:—

"6, Granville Park Terrace, Blackheath, Dec. 10, 1860.

"I observed in your publication of the 1st inst. Mr. Bailey's objection to the quotation made by me in 'Self Help' of several lines from his valuable and well-known 'Essays,' in enforcement of the familiar truth, that diligent application is necessary in self-culture, but without marking the words quoted with the usual quotation marks. This omission on my part was, doubtless, owing to the circumstances under which the book was written, as stated in the Preface. It originated in several addresses prepared for delivery before a class of young workmen in the year 1845, without the remotest view to publication; and, probably, I was not so particular as I should otherwise have been in marking my memoranda with inverted commas, especially where the quotation made was comparatively unimportant, embodying no new truth. These addresses, however, formed the basis of the book published only last year; and hence the accidental omission Mr. Bailey has pointed out, which I will take care to correct in any future issues of the book. It may be matter of more general interest to state, that the young workmen referred to,—who began in a class held in a boarded hut at the end of a cabbage garden, and subsequently removed their 'Mutual Improvement Society' (of which they did me the honour to appoint me their President) to a room formerly used as a Cholera Ward,—were for the most part apprentices, young mechanics and factory operatives, resident in Leeds; the old Cholera Hospital being situated in a corner of St. Peter's Square in that town. I am glad to learn that since then the Society has become firmly established, and has been doing good work for several years past under the title of the 'East Ward Mechanics' Institute.' Thus these young men, though they began with Self Help, did not stop there; but went steadily and courageously onward, helping others.

"I am, &c.

S. SMILES.

A bronzed proof impression of the new penny piece which lies before us has a different, altogether superior look, as a work of Art, to the new coin actually in circulation. The face is more like that of the living Queen, and though the relief is not

high, the outlines are sharp, and the whole coin handy and handsome. We suspect the metal of the coin is grievously in fault,—it scratches easily and breaks; we have forced off bits from the rim with a finger-nail.

Mr. Wyld, of Charing Cross, has issued a new plan of the Chinese territory lying between the Gulf of Petcheli and Peking, exhibiting at an easy glance the roads, rivers, and canals along which the Allied Armies have advanced upon the Celestial capital. Such a map is of obvious interest.

Among the Christmas-books which still keep pouring out, is 'Agatha: a Fanciful Flight for a Gusty Night,' by Mr. G. Halse (Harrison),—a fanciful series of tale-lets abounding in melodramatic machinery, but for which evidence of had taste and weak wit we should have higher praise than for the execution of the work, which is clever and effective, and telling enough to amuse those who do not ask for reason as well as rhyme. The illustrations by Mr. Hablot K. Browne are not worth much.—'Three Gems in One Setting,' ('The Poet's Song,' by Mr. Tennyson, 'Field Flowers,' by Campbell, and Mrs. Hemans's 'Pilgrim Fathers,' (Kent & Co.), compared with most of its competitors is a poor affair. The text is printed within coloured borders of common design, in which are introduced little trifling landscapes. The nightingale in the first-named verses is shown in a moonlight scene on the cover, and repeated within the volume, as about the size of a raven.—'The Art-Album,' by the same publishers, is a better thing: contains sixteen fac-similes of water-colour drawings by Messrs. G. Cattermole, E. Duncan, J. Gilbert, William Hunt, H. Weir, &c., and Mrs. E. M. Ward. Although preferable to the preceding, it is not saying much for the best work this book exhibits, with one exception only, to state that a pretty sketch by the lady above named is worth all the rest put together—the exception is Mr. W. Hunt's 'Fruit,' grapes, raspberry, peach, &c., as usual, though certainly we have seen infinitely better chromo-lithographic reproductions of the artist's admirable works. As a gift-book, these and their like may pass, on the old rule of not looking a gift horse in the mouth, though why that apology should be allowable for such productions passes our discernment.—Mr. Albert H. Warren has produced an illuminated little book, containing 'The Promises of Jesus Christ'; the decorations of these are confined to well-designed initial letters, mostly of the best fourteenth-century style, printed in gold and colours. The publishers are Messrs. Bell & Daldy.—Messrs. Nisbet & Co. publish 'Quarles' Emblems,' illustrated by Messrs. C. Bennett and W. Harry Rogers. Each emblem is faced by a plate designed with great judgment in the manner long ago appropriated to this book, and suggestive of its peculiarities of thought and character. Each artist has done his task well. The borders, which are the latter's share, are in almost all cases exquisitely fine and fanciful, and admirably drawn.

A case of some interest to the literary world has been decided during the past week in the Court of Session of Edinburgh. The only report which has reached us—that of the *Scotsman*—is short and unsatisfactory. The facts as they there appear are as follows:—The action was what is called by our Northern brethren an "action of accounting," at the instance of the trustees of the late William Blackwood, the bookseller, against the proprietors of the 'Edinburgh Encyclopedia.' Sir David Brewster edited this work, under an agreement, by one of the terms of which he was to have, as editor, sixty copies of the work delivered to him; and by another clause it was stipulated that he "shall superintend any other edition or editions of the work which shall hereafter be published, for doing which he shall receive such sum or salary as the committee of proprietors shall determine." Under the former clause, the words of which are not given in the Report before us, Sir David claimed to retain the sixty copies as his own property, to be disposed of at his pleasure; and under the latter he would appear to have claimed some remuneration in respect of a reprint of a portion of the work, which was made necessary by an accidental fire,

though it was admitted that he had not rendered any service in respect of such reprint. Other questions were decided by the Lord Ordinary; but these two were the only points decided by the Court of Session on this occasion. In each case the finding of the Lord Ordinary was adhered to, and on each the decision was against Sir David Brewster. The Court held, that Sir David was entitled to the sixty copies only to the end that he might employ them in remunerating or encouraging contributors for the purpose of promoting the interest of the work. On the other question it was decided that the reprint was not an edition, and therefore that no remuneration was due. As to any difficulty which may have arisen on the question concerning the copies, it is obviously impossible to form any opinion without the very words of the agreement. With regard to the second point, it certainly required no great exercise of northern acumen to arrive at a decision. It would, however, be unjust to draw any final conclusions as to the fairness of the claims advanced from the meagre Report before us. We have indicated the nature of the decision, and those who feel interested in it should consult some more full report. The case must, we apprehend, offer many hints as to the provisions of editorial contracts, and suggest some emendations in those uncommonly verbose and unintelligible productions which lawyers are pleased to call their "common forms."

The Prussian Government contemplate erecting a bust of Bessel—the well-known German astronomer—on the outside of the University-buildings at Königsberg, where it will range with those of other celebrities. The sculptor is Herr Siemering, who has prepared the bust from existing representations of Bessel.

A curious return has been recently made of the consumption of tobacco in France, which appears to be continually increasing. Between 1836 and 1840 the consumption was 470 grammes per head; between 1840 and 1845, 600 grammes; 1845 and 1850, 525 grammes; 1850 and 1855, 600 grammes; and 1855 and 1860, 750 grammes. The gramme is equal to 15·432 English grains.

The French literature of the seventeenth century absorbs, almost exclusively, the Paris writing and reading world. Indeed, much labour and pains are bestowed in hunting up all the remains of the literature of that time, and in the attempt at reproducing the classical works of the time of Louis the Fourteenth in their original purity and correctness. Critical editions appear every day; manuscripts, or where they are wanting, first editions are compared; and it is now evident, though hardly credible, what alterations these classical works have undergone in the course of time by the negligence and arbitrariness of the editors. Many things are lost, and past all hope of recovery, for instance, in the Letters of Madame de Sévigné; but other works, which have suffered cruelly, pay for the trouble of restoring them to their original state. Thus, the Letters of Madame de Maintenon, a genuine edition of which M. de Lavallée has undertaken. The Duke of Noailles, who is in possession of the family papers, has opened his archives to the editor, which contain a great number of the original letters. Hitherto these letters were only known in the form which La Beaumelle had given them. M. de Lavallée has found a great part of the original letters used by La Beaumelle; and it is astonishing how unscrupulously the first editor has handled them,—altering, leaving out, changing the dates.

Herr Engelbert Seibertz, at Munich, has rendered a service to stereochromy, which reminds one of the egg of Columbus. Stereochromy hitherto had to struggle with the disadvantage, that the colours had to be laid on wet, which often gave rise among artists to complaints on the difficulties of nice execution. Herr Seibertz, who is an historical painter, took it in mind one day to paint a portrait by aid of stereochromy; he felt the deficiency of the wet colours, and attempted to rub them on dry and in the chalk, considering that the waterglass in the end would effect the fixation. His experiment was crowned with the best result. After having further developed and perfected his simple combination (which, for its very simplicity,

may have been overlooked till now), he has gained the great advantage, that the painter can calculate on the effect of his colours with more security, while, at the same time, they come out much more brilliantly and powerfully. The new method of Herr Seibertz has been examined by competent persons, and has been fully approved of. King Maximilian's attention has also been drawn towards the new discovery; and he has acknowledged the merit of the artist, by bestowing upon him the title of Professor of the Academy.

Mr. HOLMAN HUNT'S Picture of 'The FINDING of the SAVIOUR in the TEMPLE,' commenced in Jerusalem in July, 1854, is NOW ON VIEW at the GERMAN GALLERY, 165, New Bond Street, from Ten till Five.—Admission, 1s.

THE EXHIBITION of the WORKS of THOMAS FAED, Esq., is NOW OPEN at Messrs. AGNEW & SONS' Gallery, 5, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, from Ten to Four Daily.—Admission, 1s.

SCIENCE

Notes on the Presence of Animal Life at Vast Depths in the Sea; with Observations on the Nature of the Sea-Bed, as bearing on Submarine Telegraphy. By G. C. Wallich, M.D. (Taylor & Francis.)

THESE brief notes disclose new facts. Dr. Wallich was attached, we find, as naturalist, to the Bulldog, equipped for the survey of the projected North Atlantic Telegraph route between Great Britain and America, his main object being to determine the depths to which animal life extends in the sea, together with the limits and conditions essential to its maintenance. Continuous bad weather impeded his researches, but he has in a great measure accomplished his purpose, with the assistance of Sir Leopold McClintock and his crew. It may now be accepted as clearly proved, that life exists in the sea at depths far exceeding those heretofore supposed to circumscribe it.

The Foraminifera had been surmised to live at vast depths; and this is now proved. They are minute animals, belonging to one of the most simply organized families of the animal kingdom, and their calcareous shells constitute a large per-centage of the oozy deposit brought up by the soundings in the mid-Atlantic and elsewhere. Of these animals the Globigerina form a genus, and the point to be determined was, whether they were alive when first disturbed,—for they could hardly be expected to show signs of life after the lapse of nearly an hour, during which time they had been brought from their normal medium, the pressure of which is estimated by tons, to an abnormal medium (the surface), in which the pressure is estimated by pounds. Direct evidence was, from the difficulty stated, wanting; but after a laborious and continued examination of Foraminifera, obtained from depths varying from 50 to nearly 2,000 fathoms,—that is, from 300 feet to nearly two miles and a half below the surface of the sea,—the inferences are in favour of their vitality at the greatest depths as well as in shallow waters. Yet the number of specimens of Globigerina taken from the deep oozy soundings in which the mass is extremely tenacious, showing the cell-contents entire, and in an apparently vital state, is small as compared with the much larger proportion in which the cells present no such character. It is curious that when any quantity of these microscopic creatures occur in the deep-sea deposits, they are evidently intimately associated with the presence of the Gulf Stream or its offshoots.

By far the most interesting discovery was made in sounding not quite midway between Cape Farewell and Rockall, in 1,260 fathoms. While the sounding apparatus brought up an ample specimen of coarse, gritty-looking matter, consisting of about 95 per cent. of clean shells of Globigerina, at the same time a number of

starfishes, belonging to the genus *Ophiocoma*, came up, adhering to the lowest 50 fathoms of the deep-sea line, which must have rested on the bottom for a few minutes, so as to allow the starfishes to attach themselves to it. These continued to move about energetically for a quarter of an hour after they reached the surface. One very perfect specimen, which had fixed itself near the extreme end of the line, and was still convulsively grasping it with its long spinous arms, was secured *in situ* on the rope, and consigned to a bottle of spirits.

This is the great natural-history fact of the expedition. At a depth of two miles below the surface, where the pressure must amount, at least, to a ton and a half on the square inch, and where it is difficult to conceive that the most attenuated ray of light can penetrate, we capture a highly organized species of radiate animal, living, entwining, and flourishing, with its red and light-pink tints as clear and brilliant as in its congeners which dwell in shallow and comparatively sunshiny waters. Where one form so highly organized has been met with, it is only reasonable to assume that other correlated forms may also exist. Hence we may look forward to the discovery of a new submarine Fauna inhabiting the deeper zones of the ocean, and casting a gleam of light on the paleontology of the land on which we now walk, once the subaqueous floor of primeval seas.

The law will eventually be found to hold good, according to Dr. Wallich, that "any marine animal, within the cellular structure of which air or any other gaseous fluid does not necessarily occur in a free state, and every portion of whose organization is permeable by fluids, either through capillary or endosmotic and exosmotic agency, may exist under the extraordinary pressure present at great depths." Loss of temperature and light, irrespective of the pressure, may be thought not to constitute a valid obstacle to the truth of this opinion.

With reference to the telegraphic part of the business, Dr. Wallich offers some important suggestions as to the necessity of ascertaining the general contour of the sea-bed, and of determining whether it be uniformly level, or broken by irregularities; if covered by deposit, to trace its source and nature. While accomplishing all this, should living animal forms occur, their nature, character and extent of distribution could be discovered. Doubtless, the merely practical men connected with telegraphic communication wish "science at the bottom of the sea;" if so, this is the very thing which marine naturalists also wish. All parties being thus agreed, let us hope we shall soon hear something more concerning matters of, literally, such deep interest.

SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—Dec. 6.—Gen. Sabine, R.A., Treasurer and V.P., in the chair.—The Earl of Ellesmere was elected a Fellow. The Earl de Grey and Ripon was admitted into the Society.—A paper was read "On the Gyroscope," by Prof. Curtis.

ASTRONOMICAL.—Nov. 9.—The Rev. R. Main, President, in the chair.—Messrs. W. Parsonson, G. Knott, O. Pihl, and Rev. H. C. Key, were elected Fellows.—'Account of Observations of the Total Solar Eclipse of 1860, July 18, made at Hereña, near Miranda de Ebro; with a notice of the general proceedings of "The Himalaya Expedition for Observation of the Total Solar Eclipse," by G. B. Airy, Esq., Astronomer Royal.—'Results of Meridional Observations of Small Planets and Occultations of Stars by the Moon, observed at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, from June to October 1860,' communicated by the Astronomer Royal.—'Elements of Planet (59), determined from the Meridian Observations made with the

Transit Circle at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, on Sept. 18, Oct. 3, and Oct. 16,' by Mr. W. Ellis, Assistant at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich.—'Remarkable Changes observed in the Cluster 80 Messier,' by Norman Pogson, Esq., Director of the Hartwell Observatory.—'Magnitude Constants for Fifty-seven of the Minor Planets,' by Norman Pogson, Esq., Director of the Hartwell Observatory.—'Développement de la Fonction Perturbatrice en Série,' par M. Kowalski.

GEOGRAPHICAL.—Dec. 10.—Sir R. I. Murchison, V.P., in the chair.—Dr. J. Cornwell, Lieut.-Col. L. S. Dickson, Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Bart., Dr. E. J. Pearce, A. M., A. Beckett, W. R. Looker, J. A. Mann, G. Philip, and W. S. Stanhope, Esqrs., were elected Fellows.—The Chairman read a letter from Dr. Baikie of the Niger Expedition, dated Bida, Nùpe, 24th April last, announcing his arrival at the above place, hitherto unvisited by Europeans, on the 19th instant, and stating that he has been everywhere well received; also that he had found the country exceedingly mountainous, there being a range from 10 to 12 miles long, and 1,200 to 1,300 feet high, and well cultivated, the products consisting chiefly of the oil palm-tree and cotton; the latter Dr. Baikie states to be excellent. Further accounts are expected. The papers read were:—'Communication with the South-West Provinces of China from Rangoon in British Pegu,' by Capt. R. Sprye, and R. H. T. Sprye, Esq.—The second paper, by Dr. McCosh, late of the Bengal Medical Staff, read was, 'On the Various Lines of Overland Communication between India and China.'

GEOLOGICAL.—Dec. 5.—L. Horner, Esq., President, in the chair.—Messrs. W. Salmon, P. Higson, J. Spence, A. R. Binnie, G. J. Eustace, and F. D. P. D. Astley, were elected Fellows.—The following communication was read:—'On the Structure of the North-West Highlands, and the Relations of the Gneiss, Red Sandstone, and Quartzite of Sutherland and Ross-shire,' by Prof. J. Nicol.

LINNEAN.—Dec. 6.—Prof. Bell, President, in the chair.—W. S. Atkinson, Esq., F. J. Farre, M.D., M. T. Masters, Esq., and W. Moxon, M.B. were elected Fellows.—Sir C. Bunbury, Bart. exhibited specimens of *Cinctidium stygium*, a rare moss, discovered in the beginning of November (for the first time in the county of Suffolk), by Mr. E. Skepper, at Tuddenham Heath, near Mildenhall, a locality long since noted as the station for several rare plants, especially of *Liparis Loeselii*.—The following papers were read:—'Memoir on the Aurantiaceae,' by Prof. Oliver, and 'Notes on *Spharularia Bombi*,' by J. Lubbock, Esq.

ZOOLOGICAL.—Dec. 11.—Dr. Gray, V.P., in the chair.—Mr. Osbert Salvin read a paper, 'On the Reptiles of Guatemala,' founded principally on the results of his own collecting in that country.—Mr. Lovell Reeve communicated a commentary 'On M. Deahayes's Revision of the genus *Terebra*,' published in the Society's *Proceedings* for 1859.—Mr. Slater exhibited a remarkably fine pair of horns of the *Ovis polii* of Panier, belonging to Major W. E. Hay.—Mr. Slater read a report 'On the Indian Pheasants bred in the Society's Menagerie during the Years 1858, 1859 and 1860.' During the past season the bad weather had caused great mortality among the young birds, and the deaths had been far beyond the average. Mr. Slater also called the attention of the Meeting to the arrival of a living Babirusa in the Gardens, obtained by exchange from the Zoological Society of Rotterdam, and pointed out the characters of nine new species of South American Birds from his own collection.—Papers were read by Dr. Baird, 'On some New Species of Entozoa,' and 'On Two New Entomostreacans of the Orders Phyllopora and Cladocera;' and by Mr. H. Adams, 'On some New Genera and a New Species of *Accephalus* Mollusks.'—Mr. A. Newton called the attention of the Meeting to the recent discovery of some bones of the Dodo in the Mauritius.

CHEMICAL.—Dec. 6.—Col. P. Yorke, V.P., in the chair.—Mr. J. Barratt was elected a Fellow.

—Mr. S. D. Hayes read a paper 'On a New Lead Salt, corresponding to Cobalt Yellow.'—Dr. Hofmann made a communication 'On the Production of Mixed Amine, Phosphine, and Arsenic Compounds.'

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—Dec. 11.—G. P. Bidder, Esq., President, in the chair.—The discussion upon Mr. Preece's paper, 'On the Maintenance and Durability of Submarine Cables in Shallow Waters,' was continued throughout the evening.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.—Dec. 12.—Sir T. Phillips, Chairman of the Council, in the chair.—The Marquis of Chandos, Messrs. J. Cornforth, T. Fairbairn, J. Hunt, Dr. Miller, G. P. Nicholls, R. Roskell, and Col. Yolland, R.E., were elected Members.—The paper read was 'On Italian Commerce and Manufactures,' by Prof. Leone Levi.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Mon. Royal Academy, 8.—'Anatomy,' Mr. Partridge.
Tues. Architects, 8.—'Congress, 1860,' Mr. Hummick.
Wed. Statistical, 8.—'Annual General Meeting.'
Thurs. Society of Arts, 8.—'Straw-Plait Trade,' Mr. Tansley.
Geological, 8.—'S.W. Highlands of Scotland,' Mr. Jamieson.—'Old Red Sandstone, Forfarshire, &c. &c. &c.' Mitchell.
Thurs. Numismatic, 7.
—'Linnaeus,' Dr. Entozoa, Dr. Cobbold.—'Median Publication,' Mr. Masters.
—'Chemical,' 8.—'Absorption of Gases,' Dr. Roscoe.—'Sugar in Urine,' Dr. Bone Jones.
—'Royal,' 8.—'Narcotine,' Messrs. Matthiessen and Welter.—'Arsenic Bases,' Dr. Hofmann.
—'Antiquaries,' 8.
—'Philological,' 8.

FINE ARTS.

FINE-ART Gossip.—On Monday last, the Royal Academicians met to award the Prize Medals to Students of the Academy, for competency in their respective branches of study. The work of the students was considered below the average. The gold medal was not given. The studies from the life were of extremely inferior merit. Of the five silver medals distributed, three were carried away by Mr. T. H. Watson, an architectural student, for the best perspective drawing, and for the best specimen of shading. Such a monopoly of honour, in an Academy which grudges the architects a place in the body, is not very creditable to the classes. Mr. J. T. Hart took a medal for a drawing from the antique, and Mr. C. T. Smith for a model from the antique.

On Saturday, January the 12th, the galleries at the South Kensington Museum will be lighted up and a sort of public reception take place, by tickets at 1s. each, obtainable from the students and officers, for the benefit of the Lambeth School of Art, in aid of the building fund, and other requirements of that most promising and well-remunerating place of training for artisans. It is needless for us to say a word in recommendation of this object. Lambeth, of almost all places in England, needs improvement in the Art-aspect of its peculiar manufacture, and from the universal diffusion of the same will, perhaps, best repay any efforts directed to that end. It may not be generally known, that many of the old forms of ware yet linger in this ancient, dirty seat of the potter's art. Many a common jug is still turned out by descendants of the ancient throwers, of such shapes as their Dutch ancestors brought with them; a pot is still to be found in several shops of a shape derived from that of the well-known Bellarmine, without, however, the Cardinal's head and beard. This shows, at least, a feeling for old and picturesque forms, which cultivation may develop to something good.

In addition to some remarks, last week, on the evil system of allowing copies to be made from the pictures at South Kensington, by persons who make a trade therein by selling their productions to unprincipled picture-dealers, to be afterwards foisted on the unwary as *replicas*, duplicates, or what not, we offer the following suggestion that may in some degree mitigate the nefariousness of the proceeding. This is, that no copy should be allowed to be made in the gallery, without some very distinctly visible difference from the original—a thing not difficult to

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achieve by the practitioners—a mere difference of size would answer very well—as in the case of the Dulwich Gallery, where such is, or was the law, not long since; a rule working well in other respects.

Architects are reminded that the designs of those who intend to compete for the erection of the New Houses of Parliament, Sydney, New South Wales, will be required to be sent by the 1st proximo to the offices of the agents, Merry & Co., Cannon Street, for transmission to Australia.

Mr. H. O'Neill purposes to undertake a voyage to Australia and back, in order to familiarize himself with ship-life, with a view to certain contemplated pictures. We congratulate the artist upon his earnest and sensible resolution. If this system of study was more often practised we should have better and more conscientiously executed works of Art.

We understand that Mr. Robert Browning, whose knowledge of the history and profound feeling for the theory of Art are evinced by his poems, has been studying Art *practically* for some months past.

Mr. Gambart has purchased the copyright of Mr. Holman Hunt's picture—'Claudio and Isabella,' from 'Measure for Measure,'—the property of Mr. Egg, R.A. This, together with an early work, by the first-named artist, from Keats's 'Eve of St. Agnes,'—'Flight of Porphyro and Madelaine,'—are to be shortly exhibited in the German Gallery, in company with 'The Finding of Our Saviour in the Temple.' We understand that in all probability there will be added to them a number of drawings and sketches, some never exhibited, made by Mr. Holman Hunt during his sojourn in the East. The 'Claudio and Isabella' is to be engraved immediately.

Mr. Woolner has completed his bust of Prof. Sedgwick, which exhibits a striking and fortunate likeness to the original; he has represented with great success the peculiar textures of nature as well as that character and expression which are never absent from a fine work of sculpture. The finish is minute and elaborate, and yet whole and without the hardness so common when much is attempted in that direction. On the plinth is carved the fossil *Aroclipsis Sedgwickii*. The same artist has received a commission to execute, for the New Museum, at Oxford, a statue of George Stephenson. He has also nearly completed a bust of Prof. F. D. Maurice; and is about to execute, in marble, a life-size group, for Sir Walter Trevelyan, of a young mother teaching her child the Lord's Prayer. The group is intended to suggest the idea of prayer. Both figures are standing; the child elevated to a level with the mother's breast; she, stooping, presses his cheek to hers, caressingly embracing his head with one hand, while the other joins him in supplication. Her face is remarkable for tender sweetness, intensity and beauty; its features are simply natural, neither moulded in Classic dryness nor Gothic asceticism,—the same may be said for the child's countenance, except that it is radiant with young life. The draperies are designed to give variety, in their many curving lines and flowing surfaces, to the smoothness and softness of the flesh, so that the latter gains repose and softness by contrast, forming a setting, as it were, to the expression and facial beauty.

In our account of the re-decoration of St. Paul's Cathedral, given last week, we should have stated that a very handsome stone pulpit is in course of erection beneath the dome, to be employed in the Sunday Evening Services. This is dedicated to the memory of Capt. Fitzgerald, who was slain in India. It stands on eight polished shafts of deep-coloured English and Irish marble, and will form an excellent addition to the new works. A group to the memory of Sir William C. Napier, of Scinde, by Mr. Adams we believe, a very clumsy and poor production, has been recently placed in the north transept. A proposition is on foot to remove—for which an Act of Parliament will be needed—the groups in honour of Nelson and Cornwallis, that stand now on either side of the entrance to the choir and against the great piers supporting the dome.

The Shilling Art-Union of the Liverpool Aca-

demy seems to have been very successful this year. The opposition association obtained last year 1,800*l.* by this means, with which, however, the Academy have now beaten them, we understand. The 50*l.* prize was awarded to Mr. Faed.

A public well-pump has been erected on Tottenham Green, from the design of Mr. P. P. Marshall, architect to the Local Board of Works, which is a very fine piece of Gothic style.

The Council of the Scottish Academy, in presenting the thirty-third Annual Report, congratulating the body upon prosperity and progress. The Exhibition was open from February 11 to May 5; it contained 840 paintings and thirty-eight sculptures. In amount of receipts it ranks the third since the institution (sum not stated). The sale of works, nearly one-half of which was to the Association for Promotion of Fine Art in Scotland, was much the same as usual (amount not stated). Among the most important contributions was Mr. J. Phillips' 'Spanish Contrabandista,' lent by His Royal Highness the Prince Consort. The apartment for the Life School, which was found inefficient and ill-ventilated last year, has been improved, and is to be enlarged. A system of rapid sketching from the figure, and sketching from memory, is being successfully introduced amongst the students. The Council recommend the instant acceptance of the long-since made offers of the Honorary Professors to deliver lectures on subjects connected with their respective Professorships. Amongst these thus proffered are those of Mr. Laing, 'On the Early History of Scottish Art,' and Prof. Blackie 'On Homer, Æschylus, and other Greek Poets.' The Academy has taken an energetic and justifiable part in protesting against the abandonment or modification, at one time contemplated, of the design for the New Post-Office in Edinburgh. The shaft and capital of the ancient City Cross having been offered to the Town Council, the Academy suggested its entire reconstruction.

An Exhibition of the works of Decamps will very shortly take place in Paris, at the new gallery, in the Boulevard des Italiens. It is understood this will include those pictures which at his death were left unfinished, many whereof are of the highest interest.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

ROYAL ENGLISH OPERA, COVENT GARDEN, under the Management of Miss Louisa Fyne and Mr. W. Harrison, Sole Lessee.—The sensation created with the Public on the first representation of Balfe's New Legendary Opera was most enthusiastic. The continuous applause marked its progress from the rise until the fall of the Curtain. The demand for places daily at the Box-office to witness this great musical work of our popular English composer places the Management in the proud position of announcing the performance of *BIANCA, THE BRAVO'S BRIDE*, Every Evening until further notice.—Every Evening, Balfe's New Legendary Opera, *BIANCA, THE BRAVO'S BRIDE*. Miss Louisa Fyne, Miss Thirwall, Messrs. A. Lawrence, J. Wharton, H. Corri, A. St. Alban, G. Kelly, Wallworth, F. Din, L. Hall, and W. Harrison, Conductors, and J. Alfred Mellon, Orchestra of Eighty Performers, Chorus of Fifty Voices.—Concluding with a *DIVERTISSEMENT*—Stage Manager, Mr. Edward Stirling; Acting Manager, Mr. Edward Murray.—Doors open at Seven. Commence at Half-past Seven. No Charge for Booking, or Fees to Box-keepers.—At CHRISTMAS, a *GRAND PANTOMIME*. Morning Performances every Wednesday and Saturday.

SIMS REEVES and ARABELLA GODDARD will appear at the MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS, St. James's Hall, on MONDAY EVENING NEXT, December 17.—Mr. Sims Reeves will sing Beethoven's 'Adelaide,' accompanied by Miss Arabella Goddard, and 'Gentle Hope from Heaven descending,' from 'Robin Hood.' For full Particulars, see Programme.

LAST MONDAY POPULAR CONCERT this Year will take place on MONDAY NEXT, December 17.—Instrumentalists: Miss Arabella Goddard, M. Sinton and Signor Piatti, Vocalists: Mr. Sims Reeves, M. Sinton, and Signor Piatti, 3*l.*; Unreserved Seats, 1*l.*

NEW LECTURE HALL, CROYDON.—Mr. GEORGE RUSSELL has the honour to announce that his ANNUAL EVENING CONCERT will TAKE PLACE on TUESDAY, December 18, 1860. To commence at Eight o'clock. Vocalists: Madame Palmieri (Prima Donna at the Royal English Opera, Covent Garden), Madame Sainton-Dolby, and M. Verge (Pupil of M. Duprez). Instrumentalists: Pianoforte, Mr. George Russell; Violoncello, M. Sainton and Herr Wedemeyer; Viola, Herr Stelling; Violoncello, M. Paque; Contrabasso, Herr Biell. Conductor, Mr. W. J. Cousins.—Prizes of Admission: Reserved Seats, 2*l.*; Unreserved Seats, 2*l.* 6*d.* and 1*l.*; to be obtained of Mr. Thomas Weller, Music-seller, 2, High Street, Croydon; and of Mr. George Russell, High Street, Croydon.

SPIRIT-RAPPING EXPLAINED AND EXPOSED.—St. James's Grand Hall.—MR. HENRY NOORA will deliver a LECTURE on WEDNESDAY NEXT, December 19, descriptive of his Personal Investigation of the Subject, and the Defeat of the Medium. Illustrated by Experiments and Gigantic Dissolving Views.—To commence at Eight o'clock.—Soft Stalls, 7*l.* 6*d.*; Reserved Seats, 2*l.*; Balcony, 1*l.* 6*d.*; 1*l.* 3*d.*; 6*d.*; 3*d.*; 1*d.*; Tickets at Chappin's, 8, Co. St. Bond Street, and Principals, Music-sellers; Henry Noora's, 30, Regent Street, and at the Hall.

BUCKLEY'S SERENADERS, every Night at Eight, and a Day Performance on Saturday Afternoon at Three, at THE ST. JAMES'S HALL, Piccadilly.—Places may be secured at the Ticket Office, daily from Ten till Five, 2*l.* Piccadilly.—Stalls, 3*l.*; Area, 2*l.*; Gallery, 1*l.*—Grand Change of Programme and Great Attraction for the Holidays.

* No Bonnets are allowed in the Stalls.

MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS.—The fifth Popular Concert was devoted mainly to Beethoven's compositions, among others, including the first Sonata (Op. 5.), with violoncello, and the second Trio, Op. 1,—both, to our judgment, among the less interesting works of the master. So exceedingly well are the Concert-books of these excellent entertainments compiled as of themselves to tempt occasional remarks and discussion. For instance, on reading that the admirable solo Sonata (Op. 7.) "shows a vast stride in originality, when compared with the first three pianoforte Sonatas Op. 2," we cannot but speculate, whether, at the moment of writing, was remembered the second Sonata in Op. 2, with its grandiose slow movement, its bright and delicate scherzo and its *rondo*, the capricious elegance of which has small prototype in any earlier pianoforte music. We have always dwelt on this early Sonata and on the third Trio (Op. 1.) as containing flights of invention as peculiar after their kind as the *Eroica* or the minor Symphonies, thus deranging those classifications of Beethoven's works into "periods," &c., which, be they ever so ingenious, are not a little arbitrary. Did time permit minute discussion, something might be said in regard to the consideration enjoyed by Beethoven in Vienna,—especially during his latest years: for this we feel is somewhat exaggerated in the Concert-book aforesaid. But—to return—after having been for years bidden to understand that only by constant effort and rigid selection in matter of audience, a certain number of aristocratic amateurs could be educated into approving of chamber-music, far above the comprehension of the average London public, it was pleasant to make one of so large an audience as that which crowded St. James's Hall on Monday night;—now silent to a wish in the fullness of attentive pleasure,—now rapturous in applause. The days of trading on the presumed monopoly of true taste by a few are gone. The players on Monday were MM. Halle and Sainton, Herren Ries and Schreurs, and Signor Piatti. The singers were Miss Augusta Thomson and Miss Lascelles, whose *contralto* voice is incomparable, and who sang a pleasing serious song, by Mr. Wallace, very well. We are glad to see, for the Concert of Monday next, a solo Sonata by Steibelt announced to be played by Miss Arabella Goddard. One or two of the writer's Duett Sonatas (with violin) are worth revival.

PRINCESS'S.—Mr. Fechter appeared on Saturday as the twin Corsican Brothers, in the piece so entitled, and of whom he was the original representative. The intelligence, elegance and general effect of his assumptions impressed us strongly and distinctively; and, as compared with his English imitators, also most favourably. Some alterations have been made in the drama, particularly as to the arrangement of the acts, the second being now performed, thus presenting the duel before the vision. The effect is anything but an improvement, and interferes alike with the supernatural feeling and the variety of the action, which has now lost the relief which the ordinary arrangement secured.

ADELPHI.—A new farce, by Mr. Williams, entitled 'The Ugly Customer,' has been produced here, and, owing to the excellent acting of Mr. Toole, met with success. The plot is of the eccentric kind, and depends on the extravagance of its incidents, rather than any truth to nature. Mr. Coobiddy (Mr. Toole), a retired Government contractor, whose Crimean stores have been slightly adulterated, is in terrible fear of Mr. Coriolanus Snagdragon, whose portrait, exhibited at the Royal Academy, he has depreciated. This fiery officer, who has a patch over his eye, having lost the lady whom he was to have married, in consequence of Mr. Coobiddy's remarks, demands Mr. Coobiddy's daughter in compensation, the marriage to take

place without delay, in consequence of his departure for India within a month. Of course, the lady has already a lover; and, of course, her waiting-maid suggests an expedient by which the 'Ugly Customer,' with his one eye, is defeated. Mr. Toole gave life and consistency to the father's terrors of conscience, on which Snapdragon works most effectually. To his excellent acting the success of the little drama must be attributed.

SADLER'S WELLS.—Mr. Edmund Phelps appeared on Monday in a second character,—that of *Leonardo Gonzago*, in 'The Wife,' which he supported with much judgment and effect.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—Mr. Sims Reeves re-appeared on Tuesday last in 'Robin Hood.' The opera is announced this evening for the last time.—It will be seen by Mr. Smith's programme for next week that rumour was wrong, since *Her Majesty's Theatre* is to re-open on "Boxing Night," with 'Queen Topaze' and a pantomime.—A second hearing of 'Bianca' (which work has undergone some curtailment, and would bear more, especially in the third act) leaves our impression of the opera unchanged. There are no secrets in the music which reveal themselves on further acquaintance with it. The Bacchanal song in the first act, and the *ballad* and *rondo*, in the fourth, remain the most attractive pieces; the "Gold" song is, certainly, the best of the ballads.—Once more we must commend the excellent pains with which the music has been studied by every one concerned in its production. Nothing could change some of those who take part in the opera into first-class singers—and audible and refined speaking, we fear, must be given up as impossible to the average English musician, who is apt, when he does not mouth, to mumble. But the smoothness and spirit with which the concerted music goes are highly creditable to the management. 'Bianca' draws good houses, and may increasingly do so—for a time; but Miss Pyne and Mr. Harrison will do well to recollect the career of 'Undine.' The popularity of this new opera also may cease suddenly. Forewarned is forearmed.

Mr. Henry Leslie's Choir met last evening for the first time this season. Among other novelties produced was a Part Song by Mr. F. Clay.

The Handel Festival Choir commenced its operations last night by a rehearsal of Mozart's Twelfth Mass. We cannot fancy the work to have been well chosen for the purpose. It is all in vain, we suppose, but we cannot help putting in a word for Cherubini's 'Requiem,' which (the 'Dies Ira,' perhaps, excepted) is finely adapted to a mass of voices with only the organ.

Dr. Wylde announces his intention of resuming his concerts in the early spring.—There will be eight Philharmonic Concerts next year. There must also, we imagine, be an entirely new orchestra: owing to the measures decided on by the opera-managers some time since.—'The Messiah' will be performed at St. James's Hall, in the course of next week, conducted by Dr. Wylde.

Madame Palmieri has apparently established herself in the favour of the Sydenham Concert-goers, as she sang again at the Crystal Palace on Saturday last.

It is understood that Prince George Galitzin intends to resume his concerts early in the new year, having seriously, it is added, embraced the musical profession.—We hear that the original MSS. of Beethoven's late Quartette, dedicated to one of his name, and with regard to the payment for which a brisk controversy took place, shortly after the publication of Herr Schindler's biography, are now in London, in his hands; further, that under his auspices a Russian opera is about to be translated by Mr. Oxenford, with the hope of its being performed on the English stage.

It is not the habit of this journal to do more than announce second editions; but attention must be called to a re-issue of Mr. Currie's 'Elements of Musical Analysis.' We found in that work (it may

be recollected by musical readers) a point indicated, too largely disdained by many profound and serious and also by ignorant persons—the study of melody. To say that this or the other music is "well made" is to say much on the one hand,—on the other, it is to say *nothing*, if the music be made without beauty of form and fascination of idea. This conviction is apprehended by Mr. Currie more cordially and distinctly than by most of those professing to teach,—as a conviction assisting, not contradicting,—every inclination for or purpose of scientific study. When the sketches of that easy theme on which Beethoven based the *finale* to his Choral Symphony, and his purifications and amendments of a first thought are recalled,—when we think of the strength added to the grand air of "Or sai che l'onore" in 'Don Giovanni,' by Mozart's reconsideration, there is right, reason, and orthodox warrant to boot, on the side of all desirous to sift and to study a subject alike difficult and delicate. To students of ideas and material we conceive that Mr. Currie may be helpful, and thus are glad to see his book re-issued.

The proprietors of *La Matrie*, a French periodical devoted to church music, and supported by the contributions of some of the best men of the day, is announcing prizes as under:—300 francs for a *Missa Brevior*, with organ; half the sum for the second best *Missa*; 200 francs for the best collection of three pieces suited for use in the church service; half the sum for the second best; 200 francs for the best collection of three pieces for the organ fit to be used in the service, to be easy, and (this sounds strange) with pedals *ad libitum*; half the sum for the second best,—all MSS. to become the property of the journal.

The prize Cantata by young Paladilhe, whose promise has been mentioned more than once, was the other evening performed at the Grand Opéra of Paris.

Some friend in the Far-North can possibly tell us. Last week, mention was made (on the authority of the *Gazette Musicale*) of a M. Berendt, who has written an opera for Copenhagen. This week, in the same journal, we have read that M. Berens has received an appointment as conductor to the second theatre at Stockholm,—in the right of success gained by three operas in that capital: 'Violetta,' 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'Lully and Quinault.' Should these two be one and the same composer, it would seem as if a new reputation was growing up in the land of Madame Taglioni, Herr Lindblad, Herr Andersen and Madame Goldschmidt. Every one would be glad to hear more of this.

'L'Eventail,' a comic operetta in one act, has just been produced at the Opéra Comique of Paris. The music is by M. Boulanger.—The performance of Madame Faure-Lefebvre is commended as excellent.

'Stefanias,' an opera lately produced at the Teatro Apollo, Rome, gives us the name of a young composer, Signor Gentili, which is new to us.

M. Meyerbeer's 'Schiller-March' is now to be had, "transcribed" (so runs the fashionable phrase) for the pianoforte, by Dr. Liszt. It may be noted among the coincidences of music that the first phrase bears a distinctly curious resemblance to that of the final round of 'La Gazza Ladra.' The many different uses to which the same group of notes may be put (change of time, change of place duly accounted for) are so many reasons to discourage any one who is disposed to maintain (as the modern Germans do) the strict and unalterable quality of sound, as a vehicle of expression.

Some of the foreign journals (we can hardly imagine correctly) announce that Herr Ernst has finished an opera which may, possibly, be produced at Vienna. M. Rubinstein's new opera should now be shortly forthcoming.

The recent death of Herr Rellstab deprives Germany of one who, during a long and interesting period, held a prominent place among musicians as a writer. Some knowledge of Herr Rellstab's services and criticisms will be almost indispensable to any future historian of the art on the Continent.

MISCELLANEA

The Weather.—In common with most of the readers of the *Athenæum* of my acquaintance, I have been much interested in the recent communications of Admiral FitzRoy: my object in writing these lines is to elicit more information from him. I would, however, first remark on the difficulty I have experienced in getting his 'Barometer Manual.' In a seaport town of 30,000 inhabitants, it is not to be seen in the windows, or on the counters or shelves of any of the booksellers, nor could one of the principal booksellers procure me a copy when I made a slight mistake in its title! Surely it ought to be more easily procured, and should be found in every bookseller's shop, on every railway bookstall, and in every book-hawker's pack. The Book-hawking Societies, especially in maritime counties, should see to this. On the last page, the Admiral gives a method of estimating the force of wind, by the amount of sail a vessel can carry, and the knots per hour she makes. Could not something of the same kind be applied to windmills? Might not those on land be enabled to judge of the velocity, &c., of wind by noting the revolutions per minute of the sails, and when the sails are of the patent construction, by noticing the opening or closing of the vanes? Many a miller might prevent his windmill from losing her sails by having a barometer, &c., and attending to the warnings as interpreted by the 'Barometer Manual.' In Article 64. of the Manual, mention is made of the difficulty of ascertaining the real direction of the wind on land. Is not the best plan to observe the direction of the sails of a windmill which "winds" herself? Ought not future editions of the Manual to contain tables of the average dew-point (or of the saturation of the atmosphere) for each direction of the wind in each month, and of the thermometer, barometer, &c., for every station from which telegraphic information is daily published? It is, for instance, of little use to publish that, at Copenhagen, on December the 7th, the temperature was 34°, unless one knows what is the average temperature at Copenhagen at this season. The 'British Almanac' of the Useful Knowledge Society contains this information for London for many years. Would it not be an advantage if every mail steamer from North America would bring us information of the weather there and of the state of the barometer—more especially telegraphic information of this kind from Florida and the neighbourhood of the Gulf, where the cyclones seem to breed? It would be interesting also, if the captains of these and of the West India steamers would tell us what weather they experienced on their voyage, and the temperature of the Atlantic at noon each day, and at what latitude and longitude. If we had also information as to the temperature of the sea, from Jersey, Cornwall, North of Ireland, North of Scotland, &c., we might judge whether we were under the influence of the Gulf Stream or that of the Arctic current, &c. We never get information of this kind, unless the Great Eastern or the Hero, with the Prince of Wales on board, cross the Atlantic. Notwithstanding the most diligent study of the *Times*, I cannot find out whether the Baltic ports be blocked up with ice yet or not. Could not Admiral FitzRoy's paper 'On the Storms of 1859-60,' read before the British Association, be published separately? It might induce some sailors to study the law of storms, when they found an admiral expounding it, who will not listen to a "landlubber" like Col. Reid. Although not quite coming under the heading of weather, I would observe that as colliery explosions seem to occur most frequently, as it is obvious they should, with a low state of barometer, ought not barometers to be erected publicly near coal-mines, and the pitmen warned to be extra careful when the mercury is low? The Risca explosion, and others, might perhaps thus have been prevented.

E. G. R.

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£65,000.

W. J. VIAN, Secretary.
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Office, 64, Cornhill, E.C., Aug. 23, 1860.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

WESTMINSTER AND GENERAL LIFE
OFFICE.

23, KING-STREET, Covent-garden, London, W.C.

The Next DIVISION of the PROFITS of this Office will be
declared in February, 1861; and Assurances effected prior to the
1st of January next will participate therein.

W. M. BROWNE, Actuary.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY,
THREADENEE-STREET, LONDON.

The Profits of this Society will be divided in future Quinquen-
nally; and Policies will participate at each division, after three
Annual Payments of Premium have been made.
Policies effected now will participate in four-fifths, or 80 per
cent. of the Profits, according to the conditions contained in the
Society's Prospectus.

The Premiums required by this Society for insuring young
lives are lower than in many other old-established Offices, and
Insurers are fully protected from all risk by an ample guarantee
fund in addition to the accumulated funds derived from the
investments of Premiums.

Policy Stamps paid by the Office.

Prospectuses may be obtained at the Office in Threaddenee-
street, London, or of any of the Agents of the Society.

CHARLES HENRY LIDDERDALE, Actuary.

GREAT BRITAIN MUTUAL LIFE
ASSURANCE SOCIETY, 14, Waterloo-place, London, and
71A, Market-street, Manchester.

Established A.D. 1844.

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THOMAS R. DAVIDSON, Esq. 2, Royal Exchange-buildings,
Dept.-Chairman.

This Society is established on the tried and approved principle
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tendence and control. The Profits are divided annually, and
applied in reduction of the current Premiums.

Every Policy-holder assured according to the Mutual scale is a
Member, and as such is entitled to participate in the profits, after
payment of five yearly Premiums.

Every Member assured for 500l. is entitled after payment of one
Annual Premium, to attend and vote at all Annual and other
General Meetings.

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C. L. LAWSON, Secretary.

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Cent. of the Profits, at Quinquennial Divisions, or a Low Rate
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which represents equivalent Reversionary Bonuses of 1,058,000l.

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